

stirred by mega-men
Guardian

Notebook
Guinness-style
morals live on



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November 29 1997

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Japan J 1,200	Qatar QH 8.50
Korea KR 150	Saudi Arabia R 10
UK G 1.50	Slovakia SK 95
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The Guardian

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Books at links between Scots and Brits

ions art

Week, page 13



Martin Kettle takes notes on:

Why news is still Harry's game

The Week, page 15



Arts

The stoned Rossettis

The Week, page 18

IPs vote for ban by 3 to 1 majority but Government will not rescue bill

Hollow win for hunt opponents

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

THE Government last night braced itself for another confrontation with its backbenchers over the campaign to ban hunting after ministers reaffirmed their refusal to rescue Michael Foster's bill despite yesterday's 3 to 1 Commons majority in its favour.

After nearly five hours of often passionate debate during its second reading, MPs voted by 411 to 151 in favour of Mr Foster's Wild Mammal (Hunting With Dogs) Bill, which would outlaw the pursuit of stags, foxes, hares and mink.

But despite the majority, the bill's supporters in Westminster — and rival camps demonstrating outside — all know that it is bound to fail because Tory opponents will be able to block it unless Labour's business managers give it government time.

Cabinet sources last night suggested that, if the pressure grew, ministers might give a backbencher the necessary nod and wink to table a "Foster amendment" to a future Criminal Justice Bill — but not the Crime and Disorder Bill now passing through Parliament. This would mean at least a two-year wait before the matter was settled.

The debate was marked by a succession of heavyweight Tory interventions — led by Michael Heseltine — warning against the bill on practical and legal grounds, and making a libertarian defence of minority rights. Even Alan Clark, an animal rights activist, opposed the bill as badly drafted and a distraction from the wider issues of animal welfare.

But it was the Tory former minister Ann Widdecombe who emerged the heroine of the anti-hunting campaign. "Why don't those who actually are in favour of this bill take a trip to Kenya, stand in a lion reserve, unprotected, and see if they enjoy the hunt. I might enjoy watching it," she said.

After the vote Mr Foster, MP for Worcester, said: "This historic vote, the largest ever

What happens next?

Stage One
The bill's supporters will seek to secure a majority in the House of Commons to pass the bill. If they fail, the bill will be referred to a select committee.

Stage Two
If the bill is passed by the Commons, it will go to the Lords. The Lords are expected to reject the bill, but the Government will not accept their recommendation.

Stage Three
If the bill is rejected by the Lords, the Government will have to decide whether to accept their recommendation or to ignore it. If they ignore it, the bill will be sent back to the Commons for a second reading.

Stage Four
If the bill is passed by the Commons a second time, it will go to the Royal Assent and become law. However, it will still need to be supported by the Lords in the future.

Stage Five
If the bill is passed by the Commons and the Lords, it will become law. However, it will still need to be supported by the Lords in the future.

Stage Six
If the bill is passed by the Commons and the Lords, it will become law. However, it will still need to be supported by the Lords in the future.

Stage Seven
If the bill is passed by the Commons and the Lords, it will become law. However, it will still need to be supported by the Lords in the future.

Stage Eight
If the bill is passed by the Commons and the Lords, it will become law. However, it will still need to be supported by the Lords in the future.

Stage Nine
If the bill is passed by the Commons and the Lords, it will become law. However, it will still need to be supported by the Lords in the future.

Mr Foster's bill failed it would be its opponents' fault. "It is those in this House and in the other place [the Lords] who seek to sabotage the bill not this Government — who will be preventing this bill reaching the statute book," the Prime Minister said in a message to MPs.

Downing Street is understood to remain unpersuaded of the case for giving government backing to a matter of conscience. Nor does Jack Straw, in Croydon yesterday, regard it as a priority, let alone worth risking other government business by having a head-on clash with the Tory-dominated hereditary peers. Ministers believe that the amount of government time would stop its opponents exploiting procedural loopholes to block it.

In defence of hunting, the former deputy prime minister Mr Heseltine claimed the bill would lead to a ban on shooting and fishing. "It is the start of an agenda," he said, which would damage rural communities and cost jobs.

The Liberal Democrat Alan Beith argued that the crime of hunting was not so heinous that it merited sending people to prison. But it was an argument resoundingly defeated in the lobbies. Last night informal Tory whips claimed they had kept the majority close to that achieved last time there was a vote on banning hunting — when the Tories were still in power.

The Union of Country Sports Workers and Country-side Alliance, which had organised a vigil and meeting a few hundred yards from Parliament, had expected a bigger defeat.

Outside the Commons, the pro and anti factions were separately corralled like football supporters. The Campaign for the Protection of Hunted Animals — a coalition of the RSPCA, the League Against Cruel Sports and the International Fund for Animal Welfare — was celebrating.

Its spokeswoman, Kate Parmenter, said: "We are thrilled with the result but this is just the first stage of our campaign to ban hunting with dogs."

Earlier this week that the body of Joan Turner, aged 58, had been sent in error to Switzerland and replaced by an unknown corpse, relatives were shattered by the new muddle.

Admitting the situation was "total chaos", the West Yorkshire Coroner, James Turnbull, revealed that the body of Mrs Turner's daughter Karina, a 24-year-old air hostess, had been lost and he was now in legal charge of the bodies of two unidentified foreign nationals.

"It is really indescribable," he said. "I cannot express my concern enough — all I can say is that I will move heaven and earth to return Joan



One of the anti-hunting campaigners at Westminster yesterday

Outrage at Birmingham Six book

David Pallister

THE solicitor for the Birmingham Six, Gareth Peirce, yesterday made a swingeing attack on the senior barrister Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC for suggesting in a new book that there was "powerful and compelling" circumstantial evidence against the men.

Ms Peirce accused Sir Louis of "shoddy research" and "total nonsense". She is considering an action for defamation. The Birmingham Six were six Irishmen living in Birmingham convicted for the 1974 bombing of two pubs in the city in which 21 people died. They were later freed on appeal.

Sir Louis says in his book, *The Birmingham Six and Other Cases*, that he is uncertain about whether the men were guilty or innocent. "That question may remain a matter of speculation... Agnosticism is perhaps the only safe answer," he wrote.

In an interview with the *Guardian* yesterday Sir Louis said his intention had been to correct two misconceptions about the criminal justice system. The first was that when the Court of Appeal overturned a conviction, that did not mean the defendants were innocent.

The second was to dispel the idea that circumstantial evidence was weaker than direct evidence. He suggested that the Court of Appeal should distinguish between an unsafe and an unsatisfactory conviction. At the men's second appeal in 1991 the Crown argued that the convictions were unsatisfactory but not necessarily unsafe. This was rejected by the judges as an "exercise in damage limitation".

Ms Peirce said: "It is quite clear the book says the men are guilty and it means they have to spend their entire lives defending themselves against this sort of nonsense."

Her main criticism was that Sir Louis, an admirer of the former Lord Chief Justice Lane, who dismissed the men's first appeal in 1988, had failed properly to investigate the case.



The book that caused the row: 'total nonsense'

that Sir Louis, an admirer of the former Lord Chief Justice Lane, who dismissed the men's first appeal in 1988, had failed properly to investigate the case.

"There was a wealth of new evidence but it was never presented to the second appeal because the Crown conceded on two main planks."

Ms Peirce especially resents the suggestion by Sir Louis that the men did not suffer any brutality by the police when they made their confessions.

Ms Peirce said: "I spoke to a Lancashire CID officer whose job at the original [Lancaster] trial was to provide security. When members of the West Midlands serious crimes squad were waiting to give their evidence some of them joked to him about a mock execution which made one of them confess."

"The 'execution' happened when John Walker had a blanket put over his head and a policeman said: 'Let's shoot the bastard.' On hearing a bang — in fact a hand clap — he says he became a nervous wreck."

"This new evidence and more was sent to the Home Secretary [David] Waddington in 1989 which led him to refer the case back for a second time," Ms Peirce said.

Luxor massacre family gets second wrong body



Karina Turner: her body may be buried elsewhere

Martin Wainwright

THE aftermath of the Luxor massacre degenerated into a tragic shambles yesterday as British officials were forced to appeal for an international halt to remaining funerals of the 58 victims.

The emergency move came after incredulous members of the Turner family, who lost a grandmother, mother and five-year-old daughter, were told that a second body sent home to them in Ripponden, West Yorkshire, was that of an unknown foreign tourist.

Still in shock from the brutal killings and the discovery

earlier this week that the body of Joan Turner, aged 58, had been sent in error to Switzerland and replaced by an unknown corpse, relatives were shattered by the new muddle.

Admitting the situation was "total chaos", the West Yorkshire Coroner, James Turnbull, revealed that the body of Mrs Turner's daughter Karina, a 24-year-old air hostess, had been lost and he was now in legal charge of the bodies of two unidentified foreign nationals.

"It is really indescribable," he said. "I cannot express my concern enough — all I can say is that I will move heaven and earth to return Joan

Turner's body from Zurich and locate Karina's."

Coroner's officer PC John Madden, who worked through Thursday night to trace Karina's dental records, said: "It's a disgrace. How many more have gone wrong? I have now got four bodies, three here and one in Switzerland, and two out of four are wrong. As for the family — Karina's father, sister and boyfriend — they are shocked, distressed and heartbroken."

The British Embassy in Cairo confirmed yesterday that Egyptian police are investigating claims that the bodies of two other British victims were looted of rings and a wallet. George Wigham,

aged 71, and his wife Ivy, aged 68, who were visiting Luxor to celebrate Mrs Wigham's graduation from the Open University, were buried yesterday in Swanley, Kent, at the church where they were married 49 years ago.

Relatives were upset to find Mrs Wigham's wedding and engagement rings missing from her body, which has been positively identified. Mr Turnbull, one of the most experienced coroners in Britain, said there was no question of a muddle between the two British families.

The appeals to delay funerals have gone to five countries which lost nation- turn to page 2, column 8

'You can hardly imagine a situation which could be worse. All I can say is that I will move heaven and earth to return Joan Turner's body and locate Karina's'

Coroner

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A small Shetland community which flourished as a hippy idyll during the 1970s is now bitterly fragmented and expiring. Adrian and Karen Glover (right) tell of harrowing experiences since their arrival last year

Lawrence Donegan hears of bad karma



Island life sours under burden of dreams

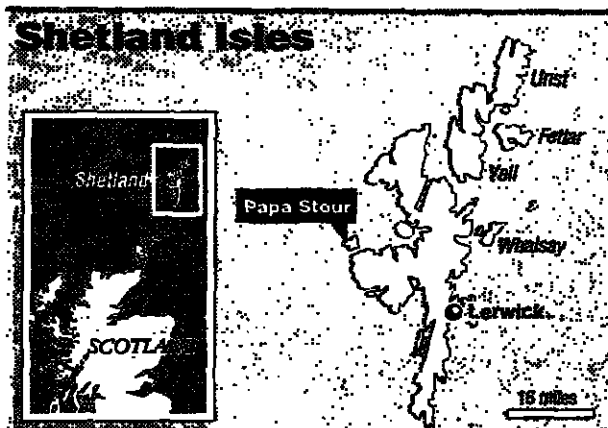
A THIN mist obscures Papa Stour. It is always the same in winter, but for many people looking across from the Shetland mainland to the tiny island, the haze is a metaphor for the bad karma threatening to destroy a generation of hippy dreams.

It started with one man's refusal to let a community die. Billy Tulloch placed an advertisement in a national newspaper in 1973 — "Island needs young people with adventurous spirit, land and craft houses available." Papa Stour's school had closed and its population had fallen below 20. Hippies poured in from all over the globe.

"I'd loved wind since I was a kid. Papa Stour had plenty of wind," says Debbie Hammond, a former resident of Miami and one of those who answered Tulloch's call. "You gotta understand, I was from Florida — everyone there was a shark. This place was so beautiful."

Twenty-four years on, only one of the original hippy families remains — Sabina and Andrew Holt-Brook, who live in a sprawling blue house overlooking the pier.

Hammond now runs a salmon smoking business on the Shetland mainland, Tulloch is long dead and the population



of Papa Stour is 23 and falling. The island community is about to make the news again but for all the wrong reasons, with the peace and love of the Seventies being washed away in a tide of Nineties fear and loathing which threatens its future.

Bad feeling surfaced this week when Adrian and Karen Glover, who moved to the island from Bournemouth last year, claimed that attempts were being made to drive them off the island. The couple produced a long litany of alleged wrong-doings: their water had been cut off, the tyres on their Land Rover slashed and the wheelnuts loosened, dogs had chased

their sheep, a row of sheep skulls had been left on their drive, a heavy trailer overturned and their children forced off the road by a speeding car.

"The worst thing was when our cat went missing. We didn't think anything of that but when we found its twin doused in petrol we knew something was going on," says Adrian Glover, who has recorded every incident.

"If the intention was to scare us off it has failed miserably. Papa Stour is a beautiful island and most of the people have been very friendly and welcoming. We are going nowhere. We have gone public because we

wanted to expose what was going on. The people who are doing it have done it to others in the past."

Glover, a qualified churchman, declines to "name names" but says his allegations have brought supportive phone calls from former Papa Stour residents, including Gillian Fox, who arrived on the island in 1992. "I could believe it when I read that the Glover's cat had been doused with petrol. That happened to our cat and we thought it was an accident," she says.

Fox and her husband, former policeman Roy, moved to the island to escape the inner city and to start a business. They left within two years. "We assumed that we would be moving to a close community but it was entirely fragmented. You couldn't do anything without people falling out. The problem with hippies is that they are either running away from something or they've got all these idealistic ideas about living on an island which just aren't real. I'm becoming increasingly ashamed and embarrassed to admit ever being associated with the place. I still miss it but, to be honest, no one from Shetland would ever dream of moving there. I don't think it's got a future, unless the people there have a change of heart," she says.

Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of habitation on Papa Stour dating back to 3000BC, when settlers built stone shelters. Celtic priests are thought to have formed a community in the sixth century. The island was under Norwegian rule before transferring to Scots lairds in the 17th century.

The population reached a peak of 360 in the late 19th century, when the island had a viable fishing station, but

fell to around 100 by 1940. The nadir came in the early 1970s, when only 18 people remained and Billy Tulloch took matters in hand.

Fox claims the root of the island's current troubles lies in a shortage of land — crofts on Papa Stour come with 30 acres, nowhere near enough to sustain a household.

Inquiries on the island are met with silence, although the tension between some residents is palpable. In some

instances, families in neighbouring crofts have not spoken to each other for months. The school has recently re-opened but many of the croft-houses are empty or have been converted into barns.

"I am worried about the place," says Hammond. "It is a beautiful place but islands all have their own karma, and right now, the karma over there is not good."

But Sabina Holt-Brook, who

has brought up three sons and discovered Jesus during her 24 years on the island, dismisses any suggestion that the community is about to die.

"I am very optimistic. All small islands have frictions but you all have to live together, forgive and forget, and I firmly believe that what is happening right now is the dark clouds before the sunshine. Believe me, God has a plan for Papa Stour."



Sabina Holt-Brook, one of the original pioneers who answered Billy Tulloch's call in 1973 to repopulate Papa Stour. The island is again in trouble

Stone circles and shipwrecks

□ The name Papa Stour is derived from the Norse *Papey Stjora*, meaning the big island of the priest. It has 21 miles of rugged coastline, described by some naturalists as the finest in the British Isles.

□ The island was once under Norwegian rule. Archaeologists uncovered evidence of a royal farm dating back to 1299. A stone circle served for meetings at which disputes were settled.

□ Folklore has it that Papa Stour was once a leper colony but it is now believed the people thought to have had the disease were only suffering from malnutrition and vitamin deficiency.

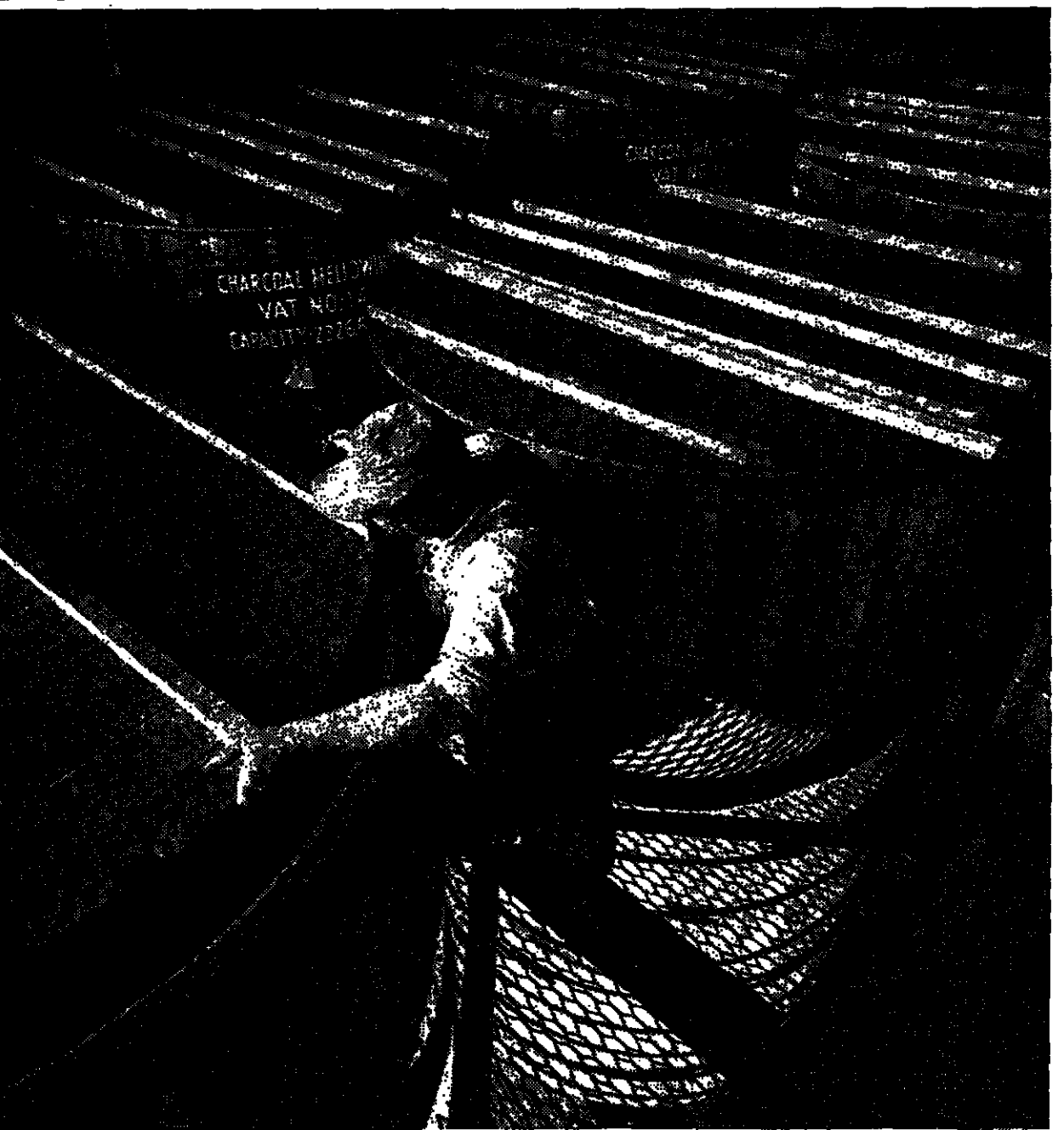
□ Winters on Papa Stour are long and dark, with the sun barely rising. In summer, it never gets dark and it is possible to read a book outside at 2am.

□ Access is by six-seater plane from the Shetland mainland (once a week) or by ferry (six times a week). Islanders are frequently stranded during the winter.

□ Papa Stour supports a variety of thriving marine species, attracted by its sheltered caves and bays. In summer, killer whales and dolphins are often sighted.

□ The island has a long association with shipwrecks, claiming Dutch, French, German and Norwegian ships. The most recent was the Elnor Viking, holed in storm force winds in December 1977.

□ The island had a nine-hole course in the 1970s. Plans for a bowling green never came to fruition.



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4 BRITAIN

Gifts for higher grades

Bribery claims damage army

Inquiry follows allegations over foreign cadets at Sandhurst

Stuart Miller
and David Fairhall

THE ARMY was yesterday struggling to contain its embarrassment after an inquiry was launched into allegations of bribery by foreign cadets at Sandhurst military academy.

Amid persistent accusations that the practice of wealthy overseas officer cadets offering gifts to their instructors was endemic at Sandhurst, Ministry of Defence officials insisted that this, the latest in a series of scandals to hit the armed forces, was an isolated incident.

Officers from the Army Special Investigations Branch are investigating seven senior instructors, who were arrested after allegedly accepting gifts, including expensive watches and foreign holidays, from overseas officer cadets attempting to influence their final grades.

The allegations, reported in yesterday's Sun newspaper, only came to light after one of the cadets — a member of an Arab royal family — complained that he still received low grades despite his generosity to the instructors.

Reports yesterday suggested that cadets had also

given expensive cars such as BMWs and Mercedes, but senior sources denied this.

The seven instructors, all non-commissioned officers, were placed in temporary custody. Three remain suspended from duty. The rest have been returned to their duties while the investigation is carried out.

Army sources insisted there was no previous evidence of similar incidents at Sandhurst or other training establishments attended by foreign cadets. "We are taking the allegations extremely seriously," said one. "If there were any evidence of corruption, the full weight of military discipline would descend on those involved."

But one of the instructors concerned accused the army of making them scapegoats for a practice that had been allowed to continue unchecked for some time. Sources yesterday backed this claim. "It's only now that this has been exposed that the army has to step in and do something about it," said one who asked not to be named.

"As usual, it only happens when it's too late". The allegations will inflict further damage on the army's already tarnished public reputation as it makes high-profile attempts to modernise its image.



The army is seeking to put its foot down, but a damage limitation exercise may be the best it can hope for after allegations concerning Sandhurst cadets

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SULLIVAN

In August, Major Eric Joyce was threatened with a court martial after releasing a pamphlet in which he branded the army a class-based organisation run by public schoolboys. He was told he could keep his job only if he did not publicly criticise the army again.

In September, six officers at the Royal College of Military

Science in Oxfordshire were accused of rape, but the case collapsed and the judge ordered the jury to return not guilty verdicts.

Last week, Lt-Col Jim Tanner, a Gulf War veteran who commands an infantry regiment, was suspended from duty amid allegations of "in-discipline" among his troops. The move followed a five-day

inquiry by military police into alleged managerial irregularities within the 1st Battalion, the Staffordshire Regiment.

But the repercussions of the Sandhurst scandal are certain to go much deeper, focusing attention on the training of overseas cadets, around 4,000 of whom are accepted for military training in

the UK each year. The practice is billed as selling spare capacity in the military colleges, but is seen as an important way of winning potentially powerful allies and acquiring diplomatic influence.

Almost all come from the ruling elites of their own countries. Within a few years of graduation, a foreign offi-

cer may be in a key position within his own establishment, awarding arms contracts on which thousands of British jobs depend.

Foreign students are not required to reach the same standards as British officer cadets, but rather those set down by their own governments. As a result, they do not "pass" the 11-month Sand-

hurst course, they "complete" it.

Over the past 10 years, more than 43,000 foreign students from 140 countries have received military training in the UK. The Middle Eastern countries involved include Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Countess hits out at Spencer claim

Stuart Miller

THE escalating confrontation between Earl Spencer and his estranged wife resumed yesterday when Countess Spencer hit back at claims that she had launched a "malicious" campaign in the hope of financial gain.

Although proceedings in the preliminary divorce hearing in South Africa have been adjourned until next week, the war of words showed no sign of abating when Lady Spencer dismissed an attack from a friend of her husband that she said was "in material respects, quite untrue".

David Horton-Fawkes, a

lifelong friend of Charles Spencer and manager of his British interests, accused her on Thursday of being "persuaded or advised to use this public forum and the protection of the open court to make malicious and untrue allegations against Charles for financial gain."

Making clear he was speaking with the authority of Earl Spencer, who is 33, he said the latter's primary concern was the welfare of his wife and child. "Far from claiming he was brutal, she lovingly and touchingly thanked him for his tolerance and support," he said.

In a statement issued yesterday by her solicitors in

London, Lady Spencer said she was a "private person", adding: "I have accordingly kept my silence in relation to our marriage, as I am advised that I should do so, until the court has evidence."

However, she continued: "I simply wish to state in response to what is said by — or perhaps through — Mr Horton-Fawkes that it is in material respects quite untrue."

Lady Spencer, aged 32, said her husband had chosen to sue her for divorce and for the custody of their four children in South Africa, without warning, even though they had been involved in negotiations through English solicitors for many months.

"My struggle before the Cape Town court is to have my future, and that of my children, determined by the law of the land where we were born and to which we shall return," she said.

Lady Spencer, who separated from her husband last year, declined to comment on his offer of a divorce settlement, the details of which he made public yesterday, in an attempt to regain the initiative after a week which has seen him branded as a "serial adulterer" and a "bully".

But she underlined her determination to continue fighting for the £3.75 million which she is claiming as a settlement.

Killer gets fourth life sentence

A PRISONER with "an appalling history" of violence received his fourth life sentence in 12 years — for murdering an inmate in a row over a piano lesson.

Frederick Low, aged 41, from Aberdeen, was found guilty at Birmingham crown court of murdering Norman Manning while serving a life sentence at Long Lartin prison in Hereford and Worcester.

He stabbed Manning, aged 25, who was in prison for robbery, 12 times after a row over a piano lesson in the jail's Catholic chapel in 1994. Manning was pronounced dead 30 minutes after the attack.

Low's co-defendant, Bruce Knowles, aged 28, who was also serving a sentence at Long Lartin, was acquitted of murder.

After returning the verdict, the jury was told that Low had a string of convictions for violence.

In 1977, he was convicted of attempting to murder a prison officer at Stafford prison, stabbing him with a screwdriver in the neck, jaw

and head, while saying: "I'm going to kill you."

In 1985, he was given two life sentences for attacking a husband and wife with a crowbar after breaking into their home to burglar it, and in 1987, Low received another life sentence for manslaughter after stabbing an inmate to death with a pair of scissors at Gartree prison, Leicestershire.

Jailing Low, Mr Justice Alton said: "There is only one sentence open to me and that is life. Whether you'll ever be safe to be released in the light of your appalling history remains to be seen."

Mr Jeffrey Burke QC, prosecuting, told the court that Knowles had gone to the jail's Catholic chapel to be given a piano lesson from another inmate. Mr Burke said that shortly afterwards there was a disturbance in the chapel involving a group of prisoners.

"It was no coincidence that the killing of Mr Manning took place later that very same day," Mr Burke said.

Low went to Manning's cell and stabbed him in the arm, hands and heart as the victim tried to defend himself, the court heard.

After yesterday's hearing,

the police officer leading the inquiry said he believed Low would continue his spree of violence in jail.

Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston said: "It is obvious he is an extremely violent man and an extreme risk at large and in custody. I believe that he will strike again."

Manning's girlfriend, Yvette Johnson, aged 29, said she was devastated by the killing. "I cannot put it into words. He has been taken away from me over such a petty row, but in such a violent way. Who would think a piano lesson would lead to murder?"

German bomber buried in mud may become war grave

BONES were discovered yesterday in the debris of a German bomber unearthed by workmen, who also found unused parachutes and hundreds of rounds of machine-gun ammunition, writes Martin Wainwright.

Forensic checks will decide

whether the bomber, buried in mud on the bank of the River Tees at Middlesbrough, should be designated an official war grave. The plane was found during sewer-laying for Northumbrian Water. RAF specialists are expected to establish this weekend whether

the bomber is a Dornier 217E, which collided with a barrage balloon in January 1942, or a Heinkel 1-11 shot down by three Hurricane fighters.

Superintendent Steve Swales of Cleveland police said that four small bones had been recovered from a swathe

of aluminium, Luftwaffe insignia and a propeller. The bodies of three of the crew of the bomber, which broke up in mid-air, were buried with military honours at the time, but the remains of the radio operator, Hans Mancke, were never found.

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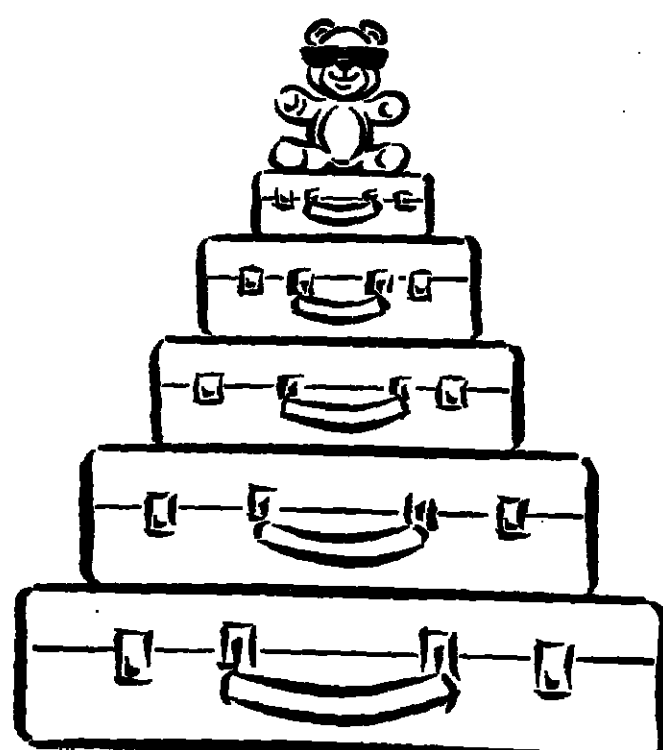
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"We are from a classless generation, we despise conservative values, we have a respect of the art that went before us." Tracey Emin goes Head to Head with David Lee

The Week page 16



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6 WORLD NEWS

Mass marriage event revives waning Moon

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE increasingly frail 77-year-old Rev Sun Myung Moon will today mount one of his largest religious extravaganzas in what critics are calling a last attempt to persuade Americans to convert to his controversial Unification Church.

Organisers say 30,000 couples, including thousands who are not followers of the Rev Moon, will pack Washington's RFK Stadium for a mass marriage ceremony today. Satellite, it is claimed, will relay the service to 3.6 million couples all over the world.

Only about 1,200 of the couples at the event will be participating in the Unificationists' traditional arranged marriage ceremony. The others have been recruited to reaffirm their marriage vows and will receive a blessing from the Rev Moon and his wife, Hak Ja Han Moon.

The event, known as Blessing 97, comes at the end of an intensive week of activities in the Washington area organised by the Rev Moon's followers, commonly referred to as Moonies.

As usual in Unification Church events, immense sums of money are reported

to have been spent on high-profile speakers and personalities at its World Culture and Sports Festival. Among those listed as participating in the week's events are the former British prime minister Sir Edward Heath and the former Irish leader Albert Reynolds.

The Washington Post says the singer Whitney Houston is being paid more than \$1 million to perform at today's ceremony.

Critics say the ambitious

Critics say the ambitious plans mask a strategic retreat by the Unification Church

plans mask a strategic retreat by the Unification Church from the United States as the Rev Moon enters his twilight years. As well as the lack of an obvious successor and the failure of recruiting efforts in the US, there are a series of scandals affecting his family, including his own falling for divorce involving his eldest son and longtime heir apparent, Hyo Jin Moon.

An affidavit filed by his wife, Namsok, says Hyo Jin beat her and locked himself in their bedroom "sometimes for hours, sometimes for days, drinking alcohol, using cocaine and watching pornographic films".

Hyo Jin denies the claims, though he admits seeking addiction treatment.

In recent sermons, Rev Moon has expressed deep disdain for American society and its failure to heed his message.

Now spending much of the time in Uruguay and concentrating much of his efforts in South America, he has dubbed the US a "hell on earth" and "Satan's harvest".

He has ordered his followers to dismantle much of their organisation, declaring that "the period of religion is passing away".

His high-profile reappearance has prompted an angry row between Washington's two principal newspapers.

Earlier this week, the Post ran a series of detailed but generally unflattering investigations of the Rev Moon. Yesterday's Washington Times, took out a full-page advertisement in the Post accusing its publisher and reporters of harassment and tabloid sensationalism.

Conflicting images of Pinochet at 82



General Pinochet waves as he arrives at a military base in Salinas, Ecuador, for the 23rd conference of American armies

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN BERNETTI

Chile fêtes a visionary and a thug

Sebastian Rotella in Santiago

IN THE Autumn of the Patriarch, Gabriel Garcia Márquez's novel about a seemingly immortal Latin American dictator, the fictional tyrant shelters deposed military rulers from other countries in a house by the sea. The general visits his disgraced cronies to "look at himself in the instructive mirror of their misery".

As the autumn of Chile's real-life patriarch slips into winter, General Augusto Pinochet sees in the mirror a former dictator who has been neither deposed nor disgraced.

Gen Pinochet's 82nd birthday this week was a landmark in Chile's political evolution — his last birthday as army commander-in-chief. He retained that post in 1980 when he ended 17 years as dictator to make way for an elected president.

In March, the man whom

the Chilean media call "the world's oldest soldier" — and whom his many critics call an unrepentant and brutal tyrant — will retire to become senator-for-life, a job he created for himself.

"May God continue granting me strength to contribute from this honourable assembly to the de-

'May God grant me strength to contribute to the wellbeing of all'

velopment and wellbeing of all Chileans," Gen Pinochet told guests at a lavish birthday banquet on Tuesday.

Chileans' reaction to the milestone reflected the divisive legacy of a stern figure who looms over the landscape as he gradually surrenders power. The images tend toward extremes: grandfatherly visionary or menacing thug.

When Gen Pinochet entered the banquet hall accompanied by a platoon of security men, he wore his white hair slicked back and a white dress uniform with a red sash and saucer-sized gold medal. His blue eyes blinked, his head jutting forward, the portly general moved slowly and heavily like a sleepy bear.

Despite his pacemaker, hearing aid and chronic knee problems, he looked healthy and jovial. He murmured greetings to well-wishers who struggled past bodyguards to embrace him.

The gala exemplified the militaristic cult of personality that portrays Gen Pinochet as a statesman who averted chaos with his 1973 coup and built Chile into Latin America's economic powerhouse.

In contrast, student protesters offered Gen Pinochet a scornful "gift": a one-way ticket to Spain, where he is under investigation in connection with the killing of Spanish citi-

zens in Chile. Critics say the general is the last of the uniformed dinosaurs, a fascist ruler who carried out murder, torture and repression with impunity and now refuses to fade away.

The Pinochet camp's obstruction of democratic reforms threatens to leave the country "economically

'It is a circus. It is a carefully planned campaign to clean up his image'

developed but politically underdeveloped", said Senator Sergio Bitar, a member of the ruling centre-left coalition and a former political prisoner. "This has become an obsession with power, at any price."

Gen Pinochet's forceful personality and control of the military have blocked efforts to punish abuses by his regime and preserved a

hard-core political right. His influence still permeates the government because he established "authoritarian enclaves" of appointees, giving the military and the right disproportionate power.

Although democracy returned in 1980, two civilian governments have failed to dismantle his power bases — such as 10 non-elected senate seats where Gen Pinochet will join fellow retired generals and other allies. Admirers hail him as the guardian of conservative values in a country that bans divorce and prizes conformity.

Gen Pinochet remains a pariah abroad, and opponents at home recoil from the displays of adulation that have accompanied his national farewell tour.

"It is a circus," said Pedro Alejandro Matta, a former political prisoner. "It is a carefully planned campaign to clean up his image so he passes into history as the moderniser of Chile." — Los Angeles Times

Two die in shooting spree at Bronx football game

Mark Tran in New York

AN ANNUAL Thanksgiving American football game at a Bronx housing estate turned into a cold-blooded execution when a gunman opened fire on the players, killing two and wounding three.

The incident bore all the hallmarks of a gangland killing as the gunman, accompanied by an accomplice, drew his semi-automatic pistol and started shooting the players.

The killer emptied his gun into one man, then pulled another gun and pumped more bullets into the body. Another player was chased before being killed 100 yards from the field.

The shooting was a stark reminder of the violence that can erupt in New York despite a precipitous drop in the crime rate.

The killings took place in the South Bronx, an area that is gradually shedding its image as an area plagued by drugs and violence.

Jesús Rosa was in his flat preparing Thanksgiving dinner and watching the football game on the grass below when the assailants arrived.

"They just started shooting," he said. "Everybody was screaming and everybody in my house hit the floor."

The shooting spree was all the more shocking for taking place on Thanksgiving, when Americans celebrate the sur-

vival of the Pilgrims in a new land by feasting on turkey and pumpkin pie.

The holiday atmosphere at the Sound View Houses estate was shattered at 3.40pm. When the killers showed up, seven young men were playing on each team, watched by about 25 spectators.

Play had been going on for about an hour when the shooting started. Some of the victims fell on the spot, others staggered away and the spectators scattered.

Some of the victims had drug arrest records and the gunman seemed to know who he wanted to shoot. Police suspect revenge was the motive from an earlier dispute, perhaps involving gang membership and drugs.

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Backbenchers roar back

The PM should welcome them

TONY Blair will spend this weekend battling with temptation. He will fight the urge to make 418 New Labour beepers buzz and vibrate with an urgent message addressed to all members of the parliamentary party: get back in line. For this week we have witnessed fresh signs of life in a species long given up for dead. Hail the return of the backbench MP.

The greatest and most visible stirring came yesterday, when honourable members had a day off from their usual robotic function as lobby fodder and actually got to think for themselves. In their free vote on hunting, they showed some class — not only with the 411-151 margin in favour of a ban, but in the quality of the debate that preceded it. For once, the chamber filled up for an event other than Question Time or a Cabinet statement. Members did not read out prepared texts for the sake of an entry in Hansard, but engaged in genuine debate. Ann Widdecombe's defence of the fox was a parliamentary tour de force. With hard logic, she demolished the argument that a ban on hunting would lead to widespread job losses. After all, she said, the abolition of crime and ill-health would put police and doctors out of work, too. "Is anybody seriously saying that we must preserve at all costs crime and ill-health because they keep people in jobs?" The Government now risks being seen as an obstacle to the will of the people — and the will of the House.

It wasn't the first time this week that MPs forced the Government to listen. Gordon Brown's Tuesday gift of extra cash for shivering pensioners and 30,000 out-of-school clubs may well have been an attempt to placate anger on the Labour benches over government parsimony on cold-weather payments and benefits to lone parents. If that was its aim, it didn't work. The Chancellor is now the target of a paper rebellion, with 120 Labour MPs signing a confidential letter urging delay of the benefit cuts, which Mr Brown insists he merely inherited from the Tories. It's a shame the MPs were pressured into a private protest, rather than sticking with their original Commons motion which had already won 50 backers. But the fact that the rebel 120 includes a few ministerial aides and several carry-carrying Blairites can only enhance its credibility.

Yet the most stinging criticism might well be the damning words issued this week by the two select committees which have scrutinised the Government decision to exempt Formula One from the ban on tobacco sponsorship. The Labour-chaired health committee listened patiently to Tessa Jowell's explanation, but they didn't buy it. They rushed out a report which said F1 should have been treated just like every other sport, a view backed by the Commons panel which supervises all Europe-related legislation.

The U-turn on Formula One played a big part in causing the current restlessness on the backbenches. It exposed the Blair team's fallibility, making criticism legitimate. It allowed new backbenchers especially to feel less in awe. So how should Mr Blair react? He should be jolly pleased. MPs can be useful when they don't feel totally impotent, and scrutinised government is good government. The Prime Minister should not feel the twitch of the control freak this weekend. Instead, he should savour fatherly pride in the Class of '97. They are beginning to do their job.

China rues the Tigers

Asia's meltdown shakes Beijing

WHEN THE Asian Miracle shone high in the heavens, China was its brightest star. Now there is anxious speculation whether the Chinese economy can avoid plunging with it to the earth. The question is taken seriously in Beijing. Last week, a top-level conference met to send the message that the financial system will be bolstered up. Next month, Beijing plans another conference to reverse the slide in planned foreign investment into joint ventures. President Jiang Zemin has ordered a special study of the Asian crisis. Are these signs of panic or of precaution?

Opinion is sharply divided, as so often in our attitudes towards China. The case for a calm view is put strongly. Beijing still manages to keep a tight macro-economic grip. Inflation has been brought down to almost zero, there is a healthy export balance and enviable foreign reserves. Though devaluation elsewhere may make Chinese production costs less competitive on the coast, they are still much cheaper inland. Most investment already in place is long-term and much of it infrastructural, while more is beginning to move into the central and western regions. China may actually attract some funds diverted by uncertainty from other Asian destinations. China is also insulated because the Renminbi is not fully convertible — though the goal, paradoxically, is to make it so. The leadership is aware of the need for political as well as economic change though it takes it slowly. There may be poverty but China has no urban slums comparable with those elsewhere in the Third World.

The opposite view is put with equal force: "Will China be next?", asks an international news magazine, which not so long ago was predicting that the Chinese economy would overtake that of the US. Bad loans in the financial sector total 15 to 30 per cent of annual GDP depending on the estimate. Banks continue to hand out cheap money to state enterprises whose assets are being stripped through the back door. Ten million urban workers have been laid off on partial wages or none at all. The high rate of growth conceals corruption and waste — far too much has gone into real-estate. The sharp drop in inflation reflects the piling up of huge unwanted inventories. Income polarisation in what was once a relatively equal society continues to grow. All of this combines with a political system which lags dangerously far behind.

These contrasting views are not so much in conflict as they may appear. China's fundamental strengths should not be underestimated — forecasts of collapse have been disproved many times. Put crudely, China is large enough to absorb a degree of social unrest and inequality which would be destabilising in a smaller country. The investment of the past 20 years into new infrastructure has created a motor for continued economic growth. But the flaws are there, deeply embedded in a society still full of contradictions. The crisis raging in the region won't easily go away and should focus minds powerfully in Beijing.

Letters to the Editor

Cherie Booth in the dock

IT SEEMS strange that Cherie Booth QC, a public figure as well as a barrister, should take on the defence of David Daniels in the libel case in which he is suing Lynne Griffiths, a bank clerk who faces legal bills of up to £50,000 (Rapist can sue woman, November 26). A libel case such as this is surely not one she needed to accept on the cab-rank rule.

The Court of Appeal decision you report is curious in three respects. To argue that Ms Griffiths's letter to the police was defamatory assumes that a convicted serial rapist has a reputation to defend; it also assumes that women do not have the right to voice their concerns if they are being stalked; finally, a successful libel action would give men a licence to stalk and could influence the parole board's independent assessment as to whether or not a prisoner was fit for release. In view of all these considerations, it is disturbing that Cherie Booth should ally herself with such a case. Prof Sue Lees, University of North London.

I AM afraid that even Roy Hattersley (Battle of the lip readers, November 25) under-estimates the extent of the problem with selection in secondary schools, and his old friend David Blunkett (Letters, November 27) is being deeply disingenuous.

In this area of North London, my children and their peers face the prospect of separate entrance examinations for a number of different, allegedly comprehensive schools. None of the local parents have had any say in this development. One school, a grant-maintained technology college, not only reserves 10 per cent of its places for children who have done well in music. It also reserves 5 per cent for "pupils with recognised talents in dance".

This is nothing to do with a specialism of the school. It is a poor cover for selection on that most invidious of all bases, social class, and it cannot possibly be seen as "enabling pupils in poorer areas to escape poverty", which Blunkett declares as the objective. It would be more honest if such schools — and the DfEE —

allowed parents to apply for a certificate that they are paid-up, full-time members of the middle class. Marie Carterson, 111 Colin Crescent, London NW9 6BT.

THE original thinking behind comprehensive schools was that such schools would have an intake fairly distributed in terms of both ability and social background. In reality, this has not happened. Most secondary schools are neighbourhood schools, rather than comprehensive, with their intake skewed to the more able or less able end, depending on the neighbourhood.

Roy Hattersley is right to argue that specialist schools, which are allowed to choose 15 per cent of their intake according to aptitude, are carrying out a form of selection. But what is wrong with this if it enables a neighbourhood school to move a little closer to securing a comprehensive intake? This will certainly be the case if, as David Blunkett says, the Government is going to focus on specialist schools in

inner cities or other deprived areas. Roy Hattersley ought to support this initiative if he understands and is in favour of true comprehensive education. And David Blunkett and the Government ought to be more confident, and acknowledge that there is nothing to be ashamed of in allowing deprived neighbourhood schools to select for a more comprehensive intake. Dexter Elmt, Headteacher, Ninesties Technology College, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7QG.

DAVID Blunkett lays great emphasis on specialist schools being in inner-city areas to enable pupils living in poorer areas to escape poverty. In Oxfordshire, the new government has just given specialist status to two good and well-established schools with already good examination results. One school is a boys' school, which has been given specialist status as a technology school. The other is a girls' school, which will become a specialist language school. Did someone say

something about equal opportunities?

What will happen in a town with two mixed schools? Suppose one gets specialist status and the extra revenue that this status brings? Which parents will choose the other school? The specialist school will be over-subscribed and choose the more able pupils and get better results. What will happen to the non-specialist school and, more importantly, to its pupils?

Also, if the specialist school is to attract able pupils from outside the town or catchment area, what will happen if the school is already full? Which "less able" pupils from the area will be excluded to make way from those travelling from outside, and where would they go? Who will pay for the additional transport costs? Cllr Desmond Roaf, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford OX1 1ND.

DAVID Blunkett is, I believe, being economical with the truth about his childhood education and the place of his upbringing. Yes, he lived in one of the poorer parts of

Sheffield, but I seem to recollect that much of his education took place in a boarding school which catered for the blind. It therefore follows that (unless he skipped breakfast) he was able to go to his classes having had an early meal.

Sadly, many of his (and my) contemporaries in Sheffield schools, and many more all over the country today, did not have the benefit of good nutrition which, several studies have shown, influences a child's abilities to pay attention to and absorb education. Liz Rowland, 9 Aberdeen Court, London N5 2BH.

WHEN David Blunkett responds to Roy Hattersley's comments on selective education, perhaps he could also tell your readers whether he thinks that the existence of private education is socially divisive and whether the Labour government still believes in reducing social divisions. Peter Slade, 27 Austen Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3NP.

On the record

SALLY Feldman (Don't assume some love, November 26) manages to get right the fact that I have been shortlisted for the Literary Review's Best Sex in Fiction Award. But the quote she attributes to the novel concerned, *The Matter of the Heart*, is actually taken from my second novel, *Saxophone Dreams*, published last year. I'm glad that the sex in the current novel gave her such a hunger for prose that she went and ravished my back catalogue, but she should think twice before describing my text as a "muddle".

Nicholas Royle, 73 Pennard Road, London W12 8DW.

THE Rev Trevor Thurston's statement (November 26) misrepresents the Archbishop of Canterbury and the House of Bishops. The archbishop has made clear that issues in Human Sexuality is a discussion document and has personally commended it in the forward for discussion by parishes. There is no question of "stifling" full debate.

Lesley Perry, Press Secretary, Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU.

CONTRARY to Mark Lawson's account (Thirty pieces of silver, November 15), the University of Oxford has gratefully accepted Wafic Said's generous benefaction for a new business school. Plans are proceeding with the development of a major centre for management education. Prof Anthony G Hopwood, School of Management Studies, University of Oxford.

THE Isle of Man is not part of the UK, as you suggest (Essay, November 1). It is a democratically self-governing Crown dependency. We are a common-law jurisdiction, and legislation is mostly based on UK enactments. Our banking laws are not significantly different from yours. Money laundering legislation to deal with drug trafficking and terrorism was passed in the late 1980s. Further legislation will extend this to all crime.

We are not a two-tier society, any more than the UK. We provide for our own resources and taxes a welfare state similar to the British; we receive no foreign (or UK) aid; our financial sector is strictly regulated and policed. Ian W Brown, Apt 2, 12 Derby Road, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Go for the burn

YOU report that the Government is considering raising the legal age of sale from 16 to 18 (Jewell move on tobacco, November 27). The proposal has several merits. It will make it more difficult for younger children to get away with buying cigarettes. It will match up with the law on alcohol, which should make enforcement easier; it is likely to be popular with the Treasury because it does not require extra public expenditure.

However, without a serious and sustained enforcement effort, it will not work. The existing law is not enforced effectively. Trading standards officers are not given the backing they need to bring prosecutions.

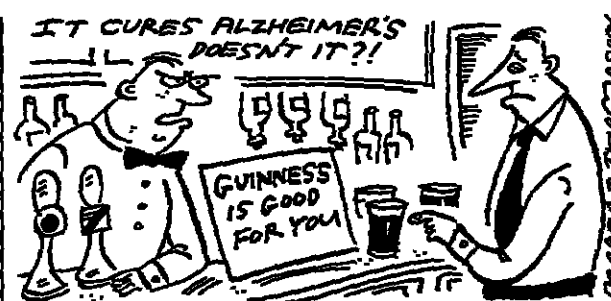
The rare prosecutions which do succeed result in derisory fines, often as low as £100. The Treasury gains more than £100 million a year in tax on the illegal sales of cigarettes to children. The tobacco industry makes more than £25 million profit. Only £10 million is spent on anti-smoking health education. If we are serious about protecting children from tobacco, retailers who break the law must face heavy fines and offenders should face swingeing penalties. Dr A W Macra, Chairman of Council, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

Radio 3: the big turn-off

NICHOLAS Kanyon's plans for Radio 3 (A minor Third? November 26) seem designed to attract a new audience whilst discarding the old. Of course, audiences need renewing, and I applaud the return to a basic educational strand, although I question whether every week at the same time is the way to go about it.

This is the problem. As someone who has advanced beyond the need for basic education, and who possesses a large collection of CDs and tapes, I use R3 as a source of serendipity. I never read the schedule and am delighted by the things I find. My music-literate friends use the same method.

If we know what (or who) is going to be on at any particular time, we will stop listening and turn to our collections, leaving every week at the same time the early stages of their musical education or those already catered for by Classic FM. This highlights another problem. By all means make the presenters more listener-



An old con

AFTER an 11-year enquiry, the Department of Trade and Industry has concluded that Ernest Saunders stole £23 million from Guinness (Report, November 26). After seven months in office, the Home Secretary has concluded, in the face of overwhelming research evidence to the contrary, that we need new powers to lock up under-12-year-olds, to force parents to assume responsibility for their children, and to clear the streets of noisy 10-year-olds.

Following his jail sentence, reduced as a result of the onset of Alzheimer's Disease, from which, miraculously, he recovered shortly after his release, Ernest Saunders has now returned to life earning £500,000 per year. Nonetheless, the Government has yet to announce plans for a crackdown on corporate fraud. One is reminded of the line in the

old song, "Steal a little and they throw you in jail; steal a lot and they make you a king". (Prod) John Piles, University of Luton.

HAS Mr Saunders grounds for bringing a medical negligence case against the consultant who produced this report? One can but hope that the Harley Street man gets it right in future and spares others the acute distress Mr Saunders must have suffered.

As a member of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, with some experience of caring for a sufferer, am I being over-sensitive if I say that this episode has diminished my confidence in the medical profession? Bob Cottingham, 49 Pembroke Road, London N10 2EH.

Please include a full address on all letters. Shorter letters are more likely to appear.

Topping out

I AM astonished to see you calling for universities to be allowed to charge top-up fees (Leader, November 28). I can think of nothing more likely to reduce access to higher education than a market free-for-all in fees. That is why the Government is taking a reserve power in the new Education Bill to stop this happening. Top-up fees play no part in our plans, and no university should proceed on the basis of introducing such fees.

In contrast, our plans for student support are fair and protect students from low-income backgrounds. They have already produced an additional £165 million for our universities. We are determined both to improve access to, and the finances of, higher education so that more people can have the success of a university education. Dr Kim Howells MP, Parliament Secretary of State, Department for Education and Employment, London SW1P 3BT.

TV review: for and Against Nature

I WAS amused that both your writers on the Channel 4 series, *Against Nature* (Crimes against nature, November 26) and John Vidal (Nasty agenda, Society) — criticised it for implying that the environmentalist agenda is imposed on the South by Westerners, and then proceeded to display the same kind of "we know what is best for them" attitude themselves.

Deep misgivings in the West about development at home have indeed worked to create a consensus that what is needed, globally, are limits to such development. Of course, the environmentalist agenda is backward-looking. Historically, progress has been made by increasing the control humanity has over nature, not by elevating nature to a mystical status and limiting the impact human beings can have on it. Cheryl Hudson, 45 Moffat Court, Gap Road, London SW19 8JB.

CHANNEL 4 would be crazy to screen a programme which uses the Narmada dam, India, as an example of a project stopped by ignorant Northern environmentalists. The dam is a prime example of a Southern peoples' movement — combining tribal villagers, richer farmers, engineers, technical experts and others — halting a mega-project by

using dogged protests and publishing the full facts about unaccounted costs and illusory promised benefits. Alex Wilks, Brecon Woods Project, 35 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RT.

WHEN I was interviewed for *Against Nature*, I was told it was a film "about the history of the environmental movement". Having now acquired a pre-broadcast video, I realise that my comments have been taken out of context, unfairly juxtaposed against unrelated "facts" and wilfully misrepresented. The broadcast contains inaccuracies, is based on poorly-informed analysis and appears to be designed to mislead. It is unbalanced, unfair and largely devoted to airing the views of a few sceptical scientists, who are portrayed as representing a mainstream view.

Friends of the Earth welcomes debate on the complex issues that face people and the planet and is happy to respond to accurate, fair and factually-based criticism. This film abandons these basic standards and will do a major disservice to serious journalism. Tony Juniper, Campaigns Director, Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ.

A Country Diary

MACHYNLEITH: In my last diary, my subject was that much written about bird, the raven, and it occurs to me what an interesting anthology could be made of raven literature. It would certainly have to include the famous piece from the Natural History of Selborne, in which Gilbert White described the great oak that "bulged out into a large excrescence about the middle of the stem". On this bulge, a pair of ravens had nested for so many years that the tree was called the raven oak. The description came in a letter White addressed to Thomas Pennant in North Wales, one of the leading naturalists of the 18th century. In his day, Pennant was known amongst scientists for books like his *British Zoology* and a *History of British Quadrupeds*. But those rare and valuable tomes have long since vanished into libraries and private collections, and today Pennant is more widely known for his

popular accounts of travel in Scotland and Wales.

I have always enjoyed reading his *Tours in Wales*, which he wrote in a mood of intense curiosity about people, history and antiquities. I like to think that the famous hurried way through the then unpopulated hills of Wales, with never a wind-farm in sight. He was not the first to write about Welsh travel but it was his book that became the most popular. As one commentator put it: "Pennant made known to the average Englishman a country which had hitherto been as unknown as Central Africa". Maybe the Wales Tourist Board should put up a statue to him somewhere in his native Flintshire. Doubtless we shall be hearing a lot about this gifted man in the near future because 1998 will see the 200th anniversary of his death. It is said that Downing, the house where he was born was long ago demolished. WILLIAM CONDRY

What do you fancy: book, bash or crag?



Mark Lawson

WOULD BE Conservative politicians are going to get their heads seen to. It was revealed this week that future candidates will undergo psychological profiling in an attempt to raise the variety and quality of Tory members. An example given was that applicants would be asked to choose one of three leisure options: go to a party, read a book, climb a mountain.

A Conservative vice-chairman, Peta Buscombe, has enthusiastically approved the new initiative. "We have got to find every which way we can of attracting the right people," she said this week. My italics. That a female Tory grandee should be found using Americanisms — even one popularised by a ropey 1970s Clint

Eastwood movie about an orangutan — is itself a sign of the shake-up of the organisation.

But I can understand their panic. The new Tory sales plan was announced at a time when it seems that William Hague can't even be given away to the electorate. He is still low in the polls even after the Formula One fiasco. One of his tasks this week was to welcome his party's newest parliamentary recruit: Backbencher Victor Jacqui Laif, a tactically drab alternative to the disgraced Piers Merchant. Would you want more candidates like Mrs Laif? As Churchill said on a different subject, one is enough.

But is psychological profiling the answer? It's by no means obvious which answer would be considered the correct one. That "going to a party" option might easily be misunderstood. In recent times, Alan Howarth, Emma Nicholson and Peter Temple-Morris have all shown a worrying interest in going to parties. The Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent ones respectively. But I think we can assume that a prospective candidate would be foolish to choose the beano. That choice is supposed to expose

the tabloid risks. As for literature, that activity would have been considered dangerously intellectual by the old Conservative Party, but reading might now be seen to have the advantage of being a solitary but healthy activity. If only, Central Office may now be thinking. Piers Merchant had read a book.

Finally, there's what we might call the Julie Andrews option: climb every mountain. Management selection techniques are often keen on metaphor and a Tory election victory currently looks like an unscalable peak. But mountaineers are frequently maverick loners. Is that one supposed to eliminate any possible future John Redwoods?

But there's a nagging suspicion that the applicant is supposed to show initiative by rejecting all the conventional possibilities and replying: "Wouldn't do any of those. I'd put on a baseball cap and go and hang out at the Notting Hill Carnival".

The mind-games are partly designed with increasing the number of women on constitutional shortlists. It's promised that selection committees "will not know if the candidate is a woman or a man until they turn up for the interview". An ungalant observer of the Opposition benches might conclude that they would in several cases not be sure of them.

You have to wonder, though, if they're asking the right questions. The matter of whether Conservatives would prefer a bash, a novel or a crag does not perhaps go to the heart of the electorate's objections. I'd suggest the proffers to try: "You find £1,000 in used fivers on the pavement. Do you a) give it back, b) keep it, c) ask a question in the House of Commons about kerb maintenance?"

The biggest problem is that an investigation into the kind of people who become Conservative MPs these days is being run by people who have recently been elected as Tory members. It's like a burglar conducting an inquiry into a spate of break-ins.

For me, the only psychological question that really matters is the one that even the dumbest constituency chairmen have managed to come up with: "Why do you want to be an MP?" It's significant that the dominant figures in Labour are members elected in hard times for their party, while those running the

Tories were sent to Parliament in a period of triumph. Blair and Brown both won their first elections in 1993, when the Foot-led Labour Party was devastated by post-Falklands Thatcherism. The popular wisdom of the time was that anyone who stood for Labour that year was a closet Trot with small parliamentary ambitions. Yet the positions now of at least two '93 new boys suggests that an alternative interpretation of a sinking-ship-in-take is that politics really mattered to them.

Look, in contrast, at the Tory high command. Hague himself dates from the triumphalist late '80s, indeed from the final phase in the history of the last Conservative administration when it was still capable of winning by-elections. His sidekick, Alan Duncan, reached Westminster from a Middle England seat in the still seat-rich times of '92.

The almost uniformly poor parliamentary performances of the current Tory frontbench are due at one level to the fact that none of them, until this May, had any experience of making a speech in the place without the help of the vast Civil Service research machine. But there is also the psychological question of

their motivation in standing for Parliament. Throughout the '80s, to be elected as a Tory member with even vague presentability and intelligence was to be appointed as a minister-in-waiting. These were not, to borrow a term from boring, hungry fighters, Blair and Brown were.

Not all significant politicians rise from weak parties — Margaret Thatcher was a pebble in the Tory landslide of '90 — but there's certainly enough evidence to question the apparent Tory assumption that a defeated romp inevitably consists of bad candidates. Archie Norman, the new member for Tunbridge Wells, is apparently one of the supporters of the new Rorschach approach to recruitment. It would be more sensible simply to sit Norman down and ask him why a supermarket tycoon chose to represent a party almost certainly doomed to a long time in opposition.

You probably would have to be mad to stand as a Conservative candidate right now. But political history suggests that those are the people who should be accepted rather than weeded out on the basis of whether they'd choose Stringfellow, Joanna Trollope or the Cairngorms.

كيسا بن الاميل

In the new capitalism some players win but never lose

Commentary

Martin Woollacott

WHEN Wall Street brokers jumped from high floors in 1929, they did so because they had, in the familiar phrase, "lost everything". Now we have another financial crisis, admittedly not on the same scale, but still an anxiety inducing and wealth reducing phenomenon. Nobody is winning past the window this time. Suckles are notable by their absence, among the creators of this mess. They seem to have

lost nothing — not, usually, their positions, nor their bonuses, salaries, savings, or their liberty, for none has gone to jail.

The curious language in which the crisis is discussed is hydraulic. There has been, we are told, "a failure to control short-term flows" of funds. An economy "needs an injection" of money, in the form of an international Monetary Fund loan. "Tokyo", a headline in the international Herald Tribune says, "pumps cash into bank system". Or even, to take another headline from the same source, "Asian Storm soaks ratings firms." There is an awful lot of water sloshing about in the global bath tub. It is all to do with bad plumbing. These kinds of metaphor insistently suggest that the problems are the result of the system, and not the consequence of bad or immoral decisions made by

individual managers and financiers, or by the politicians who gained or kept power because of economic growth, however dubiously that was achieved.

It is a language which stops us from realising that we are talking about incompetents, fools and knaves, and sometimes about cheats and thieves. And it prevents us from realising just what idiosyncrasies we have sanctioned. Take South Korean investment in Britain, for which local authorities have competed so fiercely, offering bribes in the form of cheap sites and tax holidays. What exactly is it that South Koreans have been bringing to Britain and to many other countries? It is not technology, or at least not new technology. It is not organisation, at least not of Japanese quality. It is, instead, cheap capital. And now we learn that

this capital is largely illusory. Much of it did not exist. What there is left of it will vanish once higher interest rates and reduced economic activity increase the already huge bad loans posted by South Korean financial institutions. Certainly the Korean managers who led this unsound international expansion are culpable. They exported their problems to the world. Equally, the British policy makers who embraced the South Koreans are also culpable, since the fact that South Korean companies were over-borrowed was well known, even if the terrifying details were not. Here you have an example of the combination of Asian deviance and Western shortsightedness which is the central issue raised by the financial troubles of the last few months.

The East Asian economies have been in world competi-

tion. Their firms have driven companies in other countries to the wall, and their investments have created subsidiaries of critical importance to the economies of whole regions elsewhere around the globe. What is beginning to be learned about the Japanese and South Korean economies suggests that this was done to some extent under false pretences. In part, East Asian firms may have been operating on the basis of loans that ought not to have been made, by institutions which did not actually have the money. With credit they ought not to have had, and with their known tradition of ignoring shareholders, no wonder market share could be pursued so ruthlessly, and no wonder so many battles were won.

We have a truly serious situation which, even if it does not lead to a crash, already means that ordinary people in many countries will have more difficult and more uncertain lives, and somehow there is nobody to blame, let alone to punish. Or even to identify, except here and there. Tsugio Yukihara, a former executive in the failed securities firm Yamachi, tells an investigating committee of the Japanese parliament how for years the firm hid massive losses in specially created subsidiaries. Otherwise, he explained indignantly, the firm would have gone bust.

He cried. He apologised. So did the Japanese prime minister, or rather he expressed remorse but ducked responsibility. That belonged to the firm, Ryutaro Hashimoto said, but he nevertheless "felt shame". At least the Japanese will mention the word, but if there is any shame in Malaysia, Thailand, or Indonesia, or among the bankers and the stock and currency managers and manipulators of the West, it is well hidden.

Instead we get London merchant bankers, men who may well earn a third of a million pounds or more a year, explaining unctuously on televi-

The reports speak of economies being bailed out, but in truth those who are being bailed out are the business classes, especially the financial business classes, of these countries, and, indirectly, of our own. Their peoples will pay the price of lost services, lost jobs and lost savings, as the IMF conditions bear down, but the shrewd operators will be way ahead of all that. For those in the right place, it seems, capitalism is all gain and no pain.

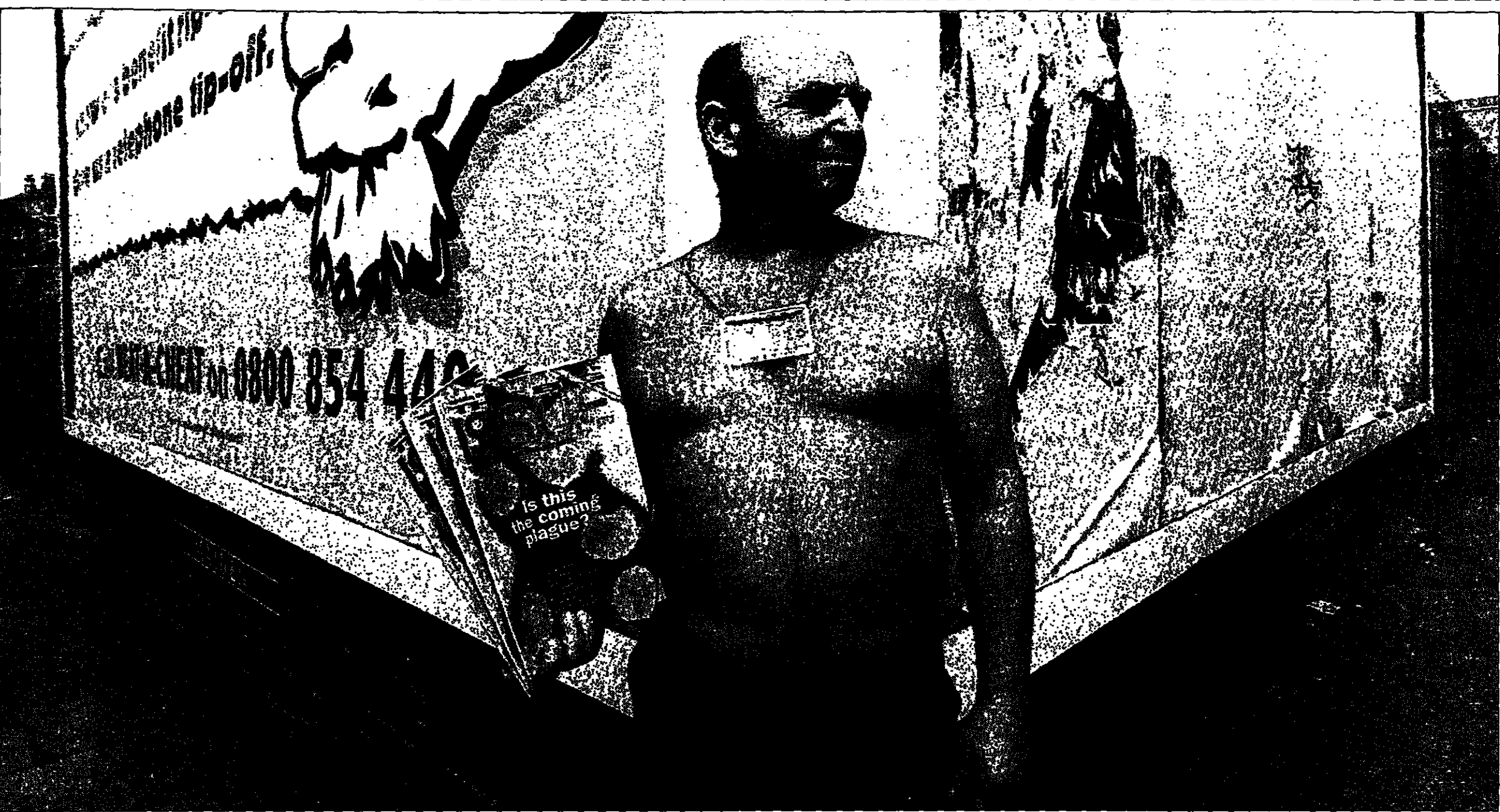
They call the Western money that went into south east Asia and South Korea "dumb money", meaning that

Culpability matters not only because individuals ought to pay some price for foolish or immoral decisions. It matters because the business classes of the world are well on the way to removing risk from their own personal affairs. Their companies may go down, whole economies may go into decline, but the decision makers are largely immune. None of the fund managers and investment experts who fed money into the Asian miracles are going to lose their jobs. Providing they got out in time, they will even have been promoted. If success of this destructive kind has its rewards, so does failure, so that even the most cynical Western chief executive will be paid off in the hundreds of thousands. In Japan, a few fearful words into the microphone and then back to your retirement home. In South Korea, not even that. What this means is that the thousands of businessmen and financiers, east and west, who made the decisions that created the present crisis have damaged the rest of us but not themselves. They have already half succeeded in persuading everybody that what has happened is the financial equivalent of freak weather — nobody's fault and now we should all pitch in to set things right. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Their companies may go down, whole economies may go into decline, but the decision makers are largely immune

sion that in order to avert a crash, many billions will have to be poured into the South East Asian and now the South Korean economies. Who knows who will be screaming for help next? Some say Russia and Eastern Europe, some Brazil. Whose money is this? It is not merchant bankers' money. The answer is that it is our money. It is global taxpayers' money, either directly handed over by our own governments or disbursed by the world financial institutions.

It just followed high returns, just as it is now fleeing, incidentally undermining the numerous viable companies that remain. But it is not so much money which does not know as money which does not wish to know. There cannot be many investment managers who were genuinely unaware of the unsound basis of many Asian stocks. They went in anyway, trusting to get out before the problems their own actions were exacerbating came to the fore.



Hot work on the city streets... Monty Shooltz selling The Big Issue in London

Let's do business for the underclass

John Bird calls for a shakeup of charity laws to help launch 'social businesses', which would make profits and use them to create opportunities rather than create beggars

THE world is awash with charities. There are nearly 200,000 in this country, many of them dedicated to the relief and improvement of the socially excluded. I am always meeting people who want to start, or have just started, a new charity. Every conceivable social, environmental or animal need, it seems, can be met by one or other charity. And this charity industry employs, at a conservative estimate, 400,000 people, with an annual turnover of £12-16 billion. Charities are created because of some pressing social calamity that is not addressed by Government agencies. The charity Centropoint, for example, was set up by a church to help young people sleeping rough in the west end of London. Likewise The Missing Persons Helpline recognised a dire social need, and responded by creating an interface between missing people and their loved ones. Most charities have one thing in common. They have to appeal to businesses and the public for funds. Without our support they would not

exist. Few of them have learned the art of becoming self-sustaining. They are forever appealing to you and me in a manner that is in effect a polite form of begging. The money comes in and the money goes out. The attempt is to meet the social needs of the disenfranchised. And then the elaborate appeal machine has to go into operation again to ensure the continuation of the essential work for the next year. Added to this we have businesses offering money to good causes. Buy such and such a product and a few coppers will end up in the coffers of a favourite charity. Businesses also give money to good causes in the interests, among others, of increasing their ethical profile and social standing. Mr Blair has said that we live in a giving age. Does that mean that increasingly we will be living in an age that is forever appealing? An age where a large part of our day will be spent in responding or not responding to worthy calls for money? To me, the growing army of hungry appetites for our money indicates a loss of

social direction. And that what we need is to find a different route out of the social problems that charities are obliged to address. I am not guiltless in this, exhorting you to give up some of your hard-earned income. The Big Issue company set up its own charity, The Big Issue Foundation, in order to help, support and move homeless people away from poverty. But I think we have got it right. What we have done is build a business that prepares homeless people for social transformation. Our business is the social engine that helps drive The Big Issue Foundation that in turn helps homeless people. If Mr Blair is right about us living in a giving age, does that also mean that we live a taking age? Does that mean that more people will take? If that is the case then will we not in fact be increasing rather reducing dependency? Will we not be enshrining forever the idea that social problems can only be addressed by an appeal to alms? BELIEVE there is another route out of the plethora of social problems that we face. What we need is more self-sustaining social businesses, that create work and support, and are not reliant on the public generosity. Ethical social businesses, in effect, that are capitalist in that they create profits but are socially supportive in their distribu-

tion. In a way I am advocating the creation of a new kind of social capitalism — a third route between businesses and charity. This week I had a polite disagreement with a lawyer in Los Angeles. The Big Issue is planning on launching in California in March of next year. I phoned the lawyer, and before I could speak he started to outline what a "not-for-profit" operation was all about. To him it was all a question of tax efficiency. I told him that what I wanted to do was develop a business whose profits would fuel a charitable foundation. But to the lawyer this would not be tax efficient; you could end up paying taxes, even though you had given all your surpluses away to a foundation. Then he became concerned when I said that I actually didn't mind paying taxes. (Was I some kind of nut or something?) Obviously he would need some tax breaks at the beginning, but eventually I wanted to brag that we did pay taxes. It would add to the power of our social message if we did it within the existing financial and tax implications that businesses adhere to. A social business must grow into being a provider of products that people want. It must sustain itself. It must make profits. And it must spend profits on the common good. It would not appeal to alms but would prosper and grow because of its legitimate position in the market place. Rich people and charities

are alike in that through tax efficiency they reduce their tax bill to a minimum. But taxes paid by a social business would demonstrate the power of a businesslike response to social problems. Encouraging people to break from dependency should also mean that the business itself should likewise be free of dependency. I am not advocating that charities be robbed of their tax-free status. Rather that by creating social businesses they could provide the funds necessary that are at the moment provided by the good intentions of the community. CHARITIES and the business community could create joint ventures. Funding from the lottery and even the Princess Diana Memorial fund could be directed at self-sustaining social businesses. And recognising how expensive it is to keep people poor, the Government could offer incentives for the creation of such businesses. We need to drive a coach and horses through existing charity legislation. Businesses at the moment are not bringing in the job opportunities that the Government has called for, in spite of the entreaties offered in the form of grants. And they never will. They may mop up a few from the dole queue but they will not be providing the mass response that is called for. There is not a business or service that is being provided in the market place today that could not be provided by a social business. Socially responsible transport, shops, computer firms etc would mop up more than the odd

few who at the moment may get into mainstream businesses. Social capitalism would take people out of social exclusion by providing work, training, social support and therefore social mobility. It would remove the stigma of being recipients for Mr Blair's "giving age" and make for a greater sense of independence. It would give people who have never had a chance the opportunity to gain in self-esteem. And by so doing destroy the corrosive effects of living on benefit and being virtually outside society. There will always be those who will need help and have to rely on charitable acts, but by removing the able-bodied from the starting blocks of life, we could get help to those who need it. My American lawyer, bless his heart, could not see that I was trying to create something that has yet to be created. A social engine within business. And not simply something that would forever be going cap-in-hand to the next potential provider: that I wanted to brag about paying taxes, that our business lived or died purely on the basis of how good its products were. And that this could not be done if we followed the traditional not-for-profit road. The Big Issue is a social experiment that on some occasions has worked. It has had to rely on the generosity of strangers. It has had to duck and dive and bob and weave like any other social provider. But underneath it all, its power is in how it has addressed a social problem from a businesslike angle. Let's be businesslike about social exclusion, Mr Blair.

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THIS WEEK'S essayist, John Bird, edits the Big Issue, the magazine sold on a self-help basis by the homeless, which he launched in 1991. Under the slogan 'Coming Up From the Streets', the magazine is now said to sell more than 300,000 copies around Britain. John Bird has been a house-breaker, a Trotskyist revolutionary, and, most recently, recipient of an MBE

Asia in turmoil

A nasty job for Mr Neiss

Reputations

IMF's Viennese hard man faces tough task in quelling Pacific turbulence, write MARK MILNER in Seoul and ALEX BRUMMER



Welcome to Korea... Hubert Neiss arrives at Kimpo airport as stock exchange union members demand closure of the market to give respite from tumbling share prices

PHOTOGRAPHS: YONHAP AND ANN YOUNG-JOON

THEY made an incongruous sight. Heads of state from most of the Pacific Rim's key economies lined up to shoulder, wearing identical brown leather bomber jackets and denim shirts. The oldest swimmers in Vancouver were joining the defence of open markets and globalisation.

But, as the leaders of the countries of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum posed for the obligatory post-conference photo call, another casually, but more appropriately, dressed figure slipped into Seoul, capital of South Korea.

As he headed away from Seoul's international airport, Hubert Neiss, head of the International Monetary Fund's Asia Pacific department, carried a hefty attaché case, a suit-carrier and an awful lot of responsibility.

For Mr Neiss, a veteran who is already managing the detailed negotiations of this year's IMF bail-out packages in Thailand and Indonesia, is in Seoul to negotiate South Korea's request for aid in its struggle with a banking-industrial system staggering under a huge debt burden — much of it short-term and for-

sign. Without the IMF, in terms of cash and the confidence a negotiated economic reform would bring, many of South Korea's banks and some of its big conglomerates, the chaebol, will be unable to repay or reschedule their debts. Some \$16 billion (\$2.6 million) of foreign loans are due to be paid before the end of the year, so time is pressing.

Mr Neiss may appear an unlikely saviour for South-east Asia. Much of his early experience of economics was obtained far from the hot-house atmosphere of the Asia tigers. In the cooler, more cerebral climate of his native Vienna, he gained his doctorate in economics at the prestigious Hochschule für Wirtschaft (Higher Institute for World Trade) in Vienna, moving on to work at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research. It was in 1973 that the stocky, spiky-haired Mr Neiss moved from Europe to Washington as chief of the IMF's South Pacific division, a title far more glamorous than the role.

A series of posts in the Asian department eventually saw him catapulted into his present post, based in the IMF's concrete and glass headquarters just a short

walk from the White House in Washington DC. He works closely with the IMF's representative in the region, Kuni Saito, who gained his economics training in Edinburgh and worked in the Japanese ministry of finance before joining the IMF in 1989.

Both Neiss and Saito are in the IMF mould: rational number-crunchers whose policy assessments are reached on the basis of harsh economic reality, with mere passing reference to the political and social background.

BUT Mr Neiss's task, and that of the 15-strong delegation in Seoul, goes much further. Soon they have to draw a line under the turbulence that has rocked Asia's financial markets since the first outbreak in Thailand in the summer. The Vancouver Apec meeting underscored the Manila framework — hammered out by Asia-Pacific deputy finance ministers earlier this month — which reaffirmed the IMF as the top international financial rescuer.

The idea of an Asia-only monetary fund, floated earlier in the year, appears to have dropped off the agenda.

Korea primed for political firestorm

SOUTH Korea's presidential election took off yesterday when one of the leading candidates threatened to move for the incumbent's impeachment unless he implemented a 10-point plan to combat the economic crisis, writes Mark Milner.

Kim Dae-jung, from the National Congress for New Politics, demanded a one trillion won (\$700 million) cut in South Korea's budget next year as well as a temporary suspension of layoffs and redundancies.

South Korea is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund a \$50 billion bail-out which some analysts believe could reach \$80 billion.

The government is worried that it faces a flood of job-losses and even closures among companies in its debt-burdened banking and industrial sectors as the austerity measures expected to be part of an IMF deal are implemented.

South Korea's anguish was underlined by President Kim Young-sam yesterday as he called on the people to face the crisis threatening to engulf them.

"Getting the IMF's loans has damaged our pride, but we will be truly ashamed if we don't turn the crisis into an opportunity for improvement," he said.

Yesterday, the benchmark share index fell another 5 per cent to close at a 10-year low, and Moody's credit-rating agency downgraded foreign currency ceilings, making it harder to borrow abroad.

Meanwhile, another of

South Korea's sprawling conglomerates, Samsung, revealed that it is having to rethink its overseas investments because it is unable to raise the funds it needs from international financiers. This week, Hyundai put a question mark over the timetable for the second of two Scottish semi-conductor plants.

Yesterday Samsung said it was uncertain about a second phase of its development on Teesside. "It's on hold," said a senior executive.

It is not all uphill, however. South Korea will find it easier than most to give the nod to the usual macro-economic austerities — smaller government, lower inflation, a diminishing trade balance.

Structural changes could be more contentious. Mr Neiss is reported to have said the IMF does not expect to get directly involved in reforming the sprawling chaebol system.

But members of his team have been taking a very close look at the banking system.

They are unlikely to like what they have seen — and neither does the Korean government. It has started its own restructuring — folding some of its hard-pressed merchant banks into bigger commercial banks. It has also ordered banks to cut their bad-

debt portfolios, and is providing help for them to do so.

Some of the chaebols have started their own reform programmes, cutting investment, wages, jobs. In the last lies the crunch. Real reform will cost jobs. In a country with no social safety net, that will mean trouble. Yet it is hard to see how Mr Neiss and his team can avoid seeking, however indirectly, a commitment to reform. "You don't lend money to a gambler unless you've made pretty sure he's kicked that habit," a local broker argues.

The consequences of the two sides' failure to strike a deal are daunting. The risk of the contagion spreading would be vastly increased. As Indonesia's foreign minister warned at the Apec meeting, if Japan were to catch Asian financial flu — especially in its current, vulnerable post-Yanuchi state, the rest of the world could scarcely hope to escape with a sneeze.

Failure would also undermine the IMF's prestige and the primacy of some of its most cherished ideas. Not all of Asia's leaders are as enamoured of free trade as the final Apec communiqué made it sound. Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, for example, is no friend of open markets — at least not open foreign-exchange markets. He made it clear at Apec that he was very interested in the results of a study being carried out into the role of financial market players in the Asian crisis. He was not, he indicated, on his own.

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Aristotle reopens ancient war over Greek gold mines



Helena Smith

AMONG the pine trees of northern Greece, Aristotle is at the heart of a simmering war with a group of Canadian gold-diggers. If the spot gets any uglier, the Toronto-based TVX company says it will terminate what has become the country's biggest foreign investment since the restoration of democracy in 1974.

Most Hellenes have not forgotten how gold paid for the campaigns of Alexander the Great. After the young emperor discovered gold deposits in Macedonia, he began cutting the coins that would enable him to expand his colonies eastward. In the shops and cafes of Halkidiki, Alexander is still a hero.

More than 2,000 years later, the Canadian prospectors say the European Union's poorest members will be one of the largest gold producers in the world by 2000. But locals want none of it — and that, they say, is irrespective of the plunging price of gold.

In the resort of Olympiada, where residents are the proud custodians of Aristotle's birthplace — the prospect of gold exploration has raised the temperature to boiling point. Locals have begun collecting guns and petrol bombs. Shots were fired at police, and valuable drilling equipment and police cars wrecked as villagers stepped up their opposition to the pro-

cessing plant. "We are," Nikos Mitsios, a community leader says bluntly, "on a war footing. The mines will pollute and destroy our health and our environment. They will mean the end of Aristotle's birthplace and all those visitors who come to see it."

TVX paid \$47 million (£28 million) in 1996 for the Cassandra mines after their previous owner went bankrupt — following similar attempts to stop mining. The company was sold off by the state under Greece's privatisation programme. The Canadians have poured \$130 million into the project. But its total development cost is projected to exceed half a billion dollars — making the three mines the biggest foreign investment in Greece in 30 years. With the regional unemployment rate at over 16 per cent, TVX has hired about 836 locals to work the mines.

Perhaps because of a Cassandra-like linking of things to come, the government had the deal approved by parliament last year. "The representatives of the Greek nation approved the project because they knew it would be a world-class operation," says Costas Sini, an economist who heads the TVX subsidiary in Greece. "What is happening is intolerable. [TVX] people fear for their well-being, they are at the receiving end of terror tactics and feel very intimidated."

Acutely aware of the problems that plagued their predecessors, Sini says the Canadians have gone out of their way to cater to the environmental concerns. About \$7 million has been spent on redressing old ills, while international experts have been brought in to hold "explanatory conferences", especially for the locals.

Although drillings have shown that gold grades are about 30 per cent higher than originally thought, the ore is

Beware of Canadians bearing gifts



mixed with lead, silver and zinc. To extract the commodity the gold-diggers will use biotech oxidation technology. "As an international company we have to implement American standards when it comes to toxic levels and they are very strict," Mr Sini adds. "We have also invited many of the protesters to Canada to show them how non-polluting gold-mine factories can be, but they have always refused to come. I'm afraid we may have to pull out."

The Greek government has tried to appease local sentiment by monitoring operations and conducting its own geological survey in the area. But with its reputation also at stake among badly needed



international investors, it has wasted no time in sending in more than 800 riot police and armoured vehicles to keep the peace. Public demonstrations and gatherings of more than four people have been banned. And in Olympiada, where locals have repeatedly blocked company trucks from the mines, police now out-strip residents by two to one.

The stand-off will only get worse unless the government "sends the Canadians away", Mr Mitsios booms. "We don't see our future in gold. Please tell the English that this is all about Aristotle, the man who taught Alexander. Tell them the great philosopher's birthplace may soon be destroyed by gold-diggers."

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Britain told that £3.7bn takeover by PacifiCorp would be a disaster

US plea to halt Eastern deal

Colin Weston
Industrial Correspondent

American regulators have advised British authorities that the £3.7 billion takeover of the Ipswich-based coal and electricity company Energy Group by US firm PacifiCorp would be a disaster for consumers and the environment.

A merged company would be impossible for either the British or the Americans to regulate, according to US consumer lobbyists.

A Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the proposed deal was submitted on Friday last week to the Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett. She is expected to decide around Christmas whether to permit the takeover.

Whatever the MMC recommends, Mrs Beckett's decision could be swayed by evidence from regulators, politicians and pressure groups in the US with direct experience of PacifiCorp. They have warned that the MMC with warnings about the dangers of the takeover.

Despite being given only days to respond to an MMC request for information, the verdict from the US is clear: the takeover should be vetoed.

In evidence submitted to the five-man mergers inquiry and seen by the Guardian, the US witnesses say American regulatory oversight is already made difficult by the spread of PacifiCorp's business across various states.

It says US electricity consumers would face higher bills as a consequence of the merger, that a US government

environment study has raised significant questions about emissions from a power plant near Seattle operated by PacifiCorp, and that the merged company will have to foot a clean-up bill for its US coal mining activities of at least \$460 million (£274 million). The Federal Trade Commission is continuing investigations into the proposed deal because it wants consumer protection guarantees.

The most serious warnings came from a highly experienced state regulatory body in Utah, where PacifiCorp operates through Utah Power and Light. The evidence said: "If PacifiCorp were to complete its acquisition of Energy Group, regulatory oversight both in the US and the UK would be problematic."

Regulatory control in both countries would probably be ineffective, the Utah Public Utilities Commission warned. It would not be possible to protect consumers unless regulators and the public had access to the accounting records of both the US companies and the British electricity and coal business, the evidence said.

Eugene Coyle, economic consultant to the Utah commission, told the MMC: "Without public access to all records it will be impossible to protect the public interest when that may conflict with the private interest of the parent company."

Pathway to the bid

1990: Ipswich-based Eastern Electricity privatised for £647.7 million.

July 1995: Hanson bought Eastern for £2.5 billion.

February 1996: Hanson announced merger plan.

April 1996: Eastern bought three power stations for £1.7 billion.

Early 1997: Eastern and Peabody Coal, largest US coal producer, merged from Hanson and then floated valued at £2.7 billion.

June 1997: PacifiCorp launched £3.65 billion bid for Energy Group.

August 1997: Margaret Beckett referred bid to MMC against advice from electricity industry regulator and Office of Fair Trading.

If allowed, the PacifiCorp acquisition of Energy Group would be eighth US takeover of a UK regional electricity company. Only Southern, of the 12 firms originally privatised, remains independent.

enced state regulatory body in Utah, where PacifiCorp operates through Utah Power and Light. The evidence said: "If PacifiCorp were to complete its acquisition of Energy Group, regulatory oversight both in the US and the UK would be problematic."

Regulatory control in both countries would probably be ineffective, the Utah Public Utilities Commission warned. It would not be possible to protect consumers unless regulators and the public had access to the accounting records of both the US companies and the British electricity and coal business, the evidence said.

Eugene Coyle, economic consultant to the Utah commission, told the MMC: "Without public access to all records it will be impossible to protect the public interest when that may conflict with the private interest of the parent company."

pany." From PacifiCorp's Oregon home, state representative Frank Shields urged the British authorities to prevent the merger. "The losers in this proposed takeover are the ordinary citizens," he said.

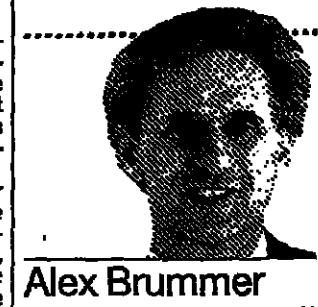
Because American law required mine sites to be restored to their original condition, Energy Group would, in the next few years, "saddle PacifiCorp with massive clean-up costs of up to \$460 million".

Nancy Newell of the No Endrun Committee, an Oregon-based coalition of consumers and environmentalists, wrote of "misleading intensive ad campaigns portraying PacifiCorp as a 'green' company".

Mrs Beckett had surprised the bid because she "was not sure it will be possible to maintain adequate regulatory control over the merged company".

Saturday Notebook

Free us from foreign power



Alex Brummer

THERE were always good reasons for Margaret Beckett's referral of the bid by US utility PacifiCorp for the Energy Group — owners of the Hanson energy interests — to the Monopolies Commission.

It was a chance for Labour to draw a line in the sand, albeit after the Tories had allowed most of the regional utilities to fall into American hands without contemplating the consequences.

The MMC's findings remain under lock and key, although they may be seen before the end of the year. It is to be hoped that the analysis strays beyond the narrow issue of this particular bid and clarifies other significant questions.

These include the public interest issues involved in overseas ownership, the risks to investment in modern power distribution systems and the case for and against vertical integration in the power market.

As for the particulars of the PacifiCorp bid, the submissions to Mrs Beckett from the US make it clear why this is a merger too far.

The problems raised in the submission include those of safety, protection of the consumer interest, anti-trust considerations in the US and potential financing problems.

Several US utilities have already taken financial hits from the windfall tax imposed in Gordon Brown's July Budget.

BZW's Asian operations which Barclays was so confident of selling when it disposed of the European operations to Credit Suisse First Boston.

When the immediate crisis is past, Barclays will not be the only investment house/bank looking at its Asian operations. Foreign investors, one of the beneficiaries of the South-east Asian bubble, is cutting its staff by 14 per cent or 275 people. The action follows losses of \$37 million in the June-to-October quarter and the sale of a minority stake to the Zurich Group, the insurance house currently merging with BAT's finance arm.

While it is not fashionable to declare that staff are being cut in response to the Asian crisis — almost everyone is at it — NatWest Markets has been laying off staff in Hong Kong, as has Lehman Brothers Asian Holdings. Even HSBC James Capel talks of "restructuring" its Pacific broking interests following the resignation of its Asia chief, Philip Gray.

There is still a tendency among Western banks to play cool on the Asian turmoil, and pretend it will all go away. That might have been possible when it was confined to the genuine tigers, a few island economies in South-east Asia. But the spread of the contagion to South Korea and Japan is starting to bring a dose of reality to the situation.

Dresdner (owner of Kleinwort Benson) has said that it is putting aside an extra \$87 million to cover potential Asian losses. As the global banking sector starts to tidy up its book ahead of final-quarter results, there could be plenty more provisions, and job losses, to come.

Ashley travails

CAN Laura Ashley be saved? The downward propulsion in the company's shares, which fell a further 10 per cent to their lowest ever level of 42p, suggests serious doubts among investors.

The latest litters were provoked when the company's own broker, Kleinwort Benson, raised its estimate of this year's losses from £7.5 million to £15.5 million.

If the new chief executive, David Hoare, wants to keep the enterprise afloat into 1998 he will need to act.

First, he needs to unscramble the company's American commitments — most of them entered into by the disastrous Ann Iverson — which have gobbled up resources and management time. As a brand, Laura Ashley no doubt has grace and style, but as a US retailer it is a catastrophe.

Secondly, Mr Hoare needs to focus the company's resources on its strong English country home furnishings, where it has a clout plus good outlets through Homebase in the UK, and scale back on fashion.

The *raison d'être* of the operation was its flowery, flowing, flowery look. Having jet-setted that it has failed to come up with the successful contemporary approach the market demands.

If it can find the cash to prune back strongly and remake itself as a British retailer which wholesales its products into the US and Europe, it could survive. But this strategy would mean an expensive dismantling of Ms Iverson's legacy. Even then it would be touch and go.

Richemont bids £1bn to gain Vendome reunion

Julia Finch

SWISS luxury products group Richemont yesterday bid more than £1 billion to take full control of Vendome, the Anglo-Swiss group whose big-ticket brands include the Cartier jewellery group, Alfred Dunhill and the Chloé fashion house.

Richemont's 495p-a-share bid was 25 per cent above Vendome's Thursday closing price and values the group at \$3.5 billion. Richemont already owns 70 per cent of Vendome and the boards of the two companies are almost identical. They intend to appoint an independent committee to advise shareholders on the best course of action but one analyst described the offer as "good news all round".

Vendome's shares have been hit hard by the recent turmoil in Asia's financial markets and the economic slowdown in Japan. From a 12-month high of 590p they recently hit 324p. Before yesterday's bid they stood at 383p.

The Far East is a crucial market for luxury labels and haute couture, and the new mood of pessimism in Asia is deterring high-spending consumers. Vendome — whose brands also include Piaget, Vacheron



In style... Supermodels Kate Moss (left) and Jodie Kidd (right) with Stella McCartney at Chloe's spring/summer 1998 show

Constantin, Baume & Mercier and Montblanc — makes 40 per cent of its sales in the Far East.

Johann Rupert, Richemont's South African chief executive, said the Vendome brands needed substantial investment support and Richemont, a

Swiss-quoted company, would be best able to provide it. His bid includes a get-out clause, however, allowing Richemont to pull out of the deal if there is further global stock market turbulence.

Vendome has been a separately quoted company for

only four years. Before that it was part of the Rothmans tobacco and Dunhill luxury brands empire, controlled by Richemont. In 1993 the two divisions were split and Dunhill was renamed Vendome.

Richemont now owns two-thirds of Rothmans In-

ternational and has a 15 per cent stake in the French pay-TV operator Canal Plus.

Vendome has had an eventful year. In April it hired Stella McCartney, daughter of former Beatle Sir Paul, to update the Chloé image after the de-

parture of veteran designer Karl Lagerfeld. In July it expanded its range of top names with the purchase of French leather goods company Lancel.

Earlier this month its Cartier operation was the target of an elaborate jewel robbery in London.

Laura Ashley denies rumour of collapse

Christmas will be crucial, says 1970s fashion icon. Julia Finch reports

THE ailing flocks and furnishings group Laura Ashley was last night forced to deny mounting City speculation that it is on the verge of collapse.

The company said: "Rumours that Laura Ashley is going into liquidation are nonsense." But it admitted the Christmas trading period would be crucial.

Shares in the struggling retailer slumped to an all-time low yesterday, losing 35p to close at 42p. Only 14 months ago the shares were 215p, but since then the firm's aggressive growth plan has seriously backfired.

The company, which was a fashion icon of the 1970s, is undoubtedly facing a financial crisis. It has failed to meet its ambitious sales targets and has halted all expansion plans. It has been forced to issue three profit warnings since the spring and 10 days ago fired its chief executive and the architect of the growth plan, Ann Iverson. She will receive about \$450,000 in compensation.

A specialist company troubleshooter has now been appointed in her place with a mission to stabilise the company.

Analysts are already expecting a loss of about £10 million this year, but yesterday's share price fall came as the company's house broker, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, downgraded its forecasts.

Yesterday DKB was refusing to comment, but analysts from DKB visited David Hoare, the company's new chief executive, on Thursday for an update on the company's performance. They slashed their expectations as soon as they returned to the office.

The mild weather has made November a bad month for all clothing retailers, but one analyst said it was "doubtful serious for a company in the state of Laura Ashley".

THERE is now a growing whispering campaign suggesting the company is facing imminent collapse, which is likely to prompt suppliers to add to the company's problems by cutting the credit they extend.

Another analyst said: "I think they are in serious trouble. There is a growing feeling that the company has understated the extent of its problems, and that the timing of Ms Iverson's departure says a lot about its cash position. I think there is a good chance it will go under."

Richard Ratner, an analyst at Butterfield Securities, said he believed the company was "fast running out of cash" and would need a rescue rights issue. But he added that he would advise shareholders not to support it.

The company, which has gone through four chief executives in seven years as it searched for a formula that would work in the 1990s, owes about £42 million to its banks and admits it has breached pledges it made to the lenders to secure the loans.

Last night Laura Ashley said: "The company's banks continue to be supportive."

100 sacked as BZW Tokyo closes

Lisa Buckingham
City Editor

BARCLAYS Bank yesterday retreated further from equities dealing when it closed its operations in Tokyo, sacking about 100 of its 550 employees in Japan.

The bank, which has just sold its London-based BZW equities business to Credit Suisse First Boston for \$10 million, denied the report was a panic reaction to the financial turbulence in Japan.

and other Asian economies. A spokeswoman said Barclays had tried to find buyers for the Tokyo equities business but had failed to secure an adequate deal. The bank is still in negotiations to sell the rest of its Asian equities operations and BZW in Australia, where both the debt and equities arms of the business are being sold together.

The spokeswoman said there had been considerable interest in both businesses and Barclays hoped to secure deals by the end of the year.

Closure of the Tokyo equities office will remove only a small proportion of the revenues Barclays earns from the region which are under stress because of the financial crisis in the Tiger economies.

The banking group will still have about 450 staff in Japan with operations spanning asset management, government bonds, treasury bill and repo markets. In addition, Barclays is planning to expand into retail investment and has applied for a licence to market investment trusts.

"It's a case of redirecting our resources into areas where globally we know we've got some power," said Andrew Simmonds, president and chief executive of BZW in Japan.

The bank, whose shares dropped 32p to 1424p, will also shed up to 15 other jobs in New York, London and the Continent which relate to Japanese equities trading.

● Hong Kong-based investment bank Peregrine yesterday cut 14 per cent of its worldwide staff — 275 people.

BMW to invest £300m in executive Rover

New model will be a 'defining moment' for Cowley. Nicholas Bannister reports

GERMAN car manufacturer BMW is expected to invest a further £300 million in Rover's Cowley works to produce a successor to its 600 and 800 ranges.

Rover's chairman, Walter Hasselkus, said that the new model range to be built at Cowley would be "a defining moment" for the Rover group. The executive car would be the first Rover to be completely designed under the ownership of BMW.

The Rover chief executive, speaking in Oxford, gave no indication of when the investment would be made, but industry sources expect the 600/800 replacement to be in production by 1999.

A Rover spokesman said the group would have to spend about £300 million to bring a new model into production. This would be on top of the £200 million being spent on building a new plant

shop. Vehicle preparation and distribution centre at the Cowley operation.

Mr Hasselkus indicated that much of the continuing investment in Cowley was possible because of BMW's policy of spending more on its businesses. He said that Rover, when owned by British Aerospace, had received just 3 per cent of its revenue whereas the BMW group reinvested 7 per cent.

Volkswagen, which is challenging BMW in the race to buy the Rolls-Royce luxury car business from Vickers, confirmed this week that it plans to invest £M43 billion (£14.5 billion) over the next five years in an attempt to expand its role as Europe's leading vehicle-maker. The investment programme will be the largest in VW's history.

The group refused to comment on reports yesterday

that it was considering a bid for all or part of Scania, the Swedish truck manufacturer.

VW, which is strongest in the lower end of the car market, is determined to expand its line by increasing the number of models in production from 38 to 50.

It said its investment strategy foresaw "a special role" for Germany in the coming years, with extra capacity at its Wolfsburg plant to cope with increased production of the Golf and a new compact car. It is also planning to step up production of the Polo at its Spanish factory.

Toyota is nearing a decision on where to site the production of its new small car, Valenciennes in Northern France tops the carmaker's list, although expansion of its plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, is still an option.

Talks with the French authorities have been completed, and a company spokesman said a final decision would be taken towards the end of December or early in the New Year.

News in brief

ITN buys into Euro channel

Independent Television News yesterday took control of TV news channel Euronews, becoming the first British broadcaster to take part in the European venture. ITN, the sole bidder, said it paid £5.1 million to buy French telecoms group Alcatel Alsthom's 49 per cent stake in Euronews, which broadcasts to 90 million homes in Europe and the Middle East.

Pound derails Hornby

Hornby said sales of its core model railways and Scalextric race tracks rose strongly in the first half of the year, but a fall in profit from £1.6 million to £975,000 reflected the strength of sterling and the group's withdrawal from the toys and radio-control market. The group is concentrating on models and collectables for enthusiasts.

P&O takes on cargo

P&O has secured another joint venture — this time with the Chinese Shipping Group — to shore up prospects for its shipping fleet. The venture will control one of the largest bulk cargo fleets in the world.

Viglen share plunge takes icing off cake for Sugar

Tony May

NEARLY £10 million was wiped off the personal fortune of Alan Sugar, the Aston Villa founder and chairman of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, yesterday.

A profit warning at Viglen Technology, formerly Alstom, sent the shares crashing 82 per cent to 50p — their lowest since the shares started trading on August 4. Mr Sugar, who has one-third of the shares, saw its market capitalisation fall by £28 million.

He refused to sell out, as he intended, for £37 million, when the group was floated at more than 80p, because he said the shares were undervalued.

Nor did he sell when the shares rebounded in September on an announcement that its computers would be sold

under the Microsoft logo. His stake is now worth £20 million, after chairman Michael Beckett told the annual meeting yesterday that oversupply of components was forcing it to cut prices and margins.

However, he added that "luminaries are strong with year-on-year growth and an increased market share".

Viglen, which designs and assembles personal computers and network servers, said its balance sheet and cash position were strong also so it would be able to cope with the pressure on margins and prices.

Viglen ended the year to June 30 with unchanged profits of £11 million. It said its prices had fallen in line with a dip in sales to first-time buyers.

The introduction of a new range of microprocessors had also caused customers to delay purchases.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SETS

Australia 2.40	France 9.59	Italy 2.036	Singapore 2.82
Austria 20.23	Germany 8.2725	Malta 0.63	South Africa 7.92
Belgium 32.29	Greece 483.13	Netherlands 3.22	Spain 241.47
Canada 2.33	Hong Kong 12.59	Norway 11.74	Sweden 12.73
Cyprus 0.5486	India 64.26	Portugal 203.11	Switzerland 1.48
Denmark 11.01	Ireland 1.1010	Saudi Arabia 6.18	Turkey 311.840
Finland 5.78	Israel 5.92		

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Americans say 'Yanks go home', page 11
The Seoul searcher from the IMF, page 10

FinanceGuardian

IAN KING
reports on
an industry
thirsty for
growth and
stirring up a
speculative
cocktail
of mergers



The spirit world

World's biggest spirit groups

Company	Country	Revenue 1996 (\$m)
Diageo	UK	6.1
Allied Domecq	UK	2.8
Seagram	Canada	2.2
Bacardi	Bermuda	1.4
M&M Hennessey	France	1.2
Patron	Mexico	0.5
Heublein	USA	0.5
House of Seagrams	USA	0.5
American Brands	USA	0.5
Stout	Ireland	0.5

First round... The record \$24 billion deal between Guinness and GrandMet is only the beginning of the consolidation anticipated by industry analysts

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Drink deals? Set 'em up

THE British record for a corporate deal was shattered this week when shareholders approved the \$24 billion merger between Guinness and GrandMet.

The deal, which was the largest in the world, was approved by Guinness shareholders on Tuesday.

The merger was a response to pressure on the world drinks trade to find new customers. Growth rates and earnings are flagging in the "blockbuster" markets, such as the United States.

The much derided name of the merged company, Diageo, supposedly formed from the Latin for "day" and the Greek for "world", is meant to symbolise the market's global nature: something everyone can enjoy anywhere. Just like sex, as an angry shareholder said at this week's extraordinary general meeting.

The behemoth will own Burger King, Guinness and Pillsbury, the food group which has the Old El Paso and Green Giant brands. It will also be the world's biggest spirits company, its best known brands being Bell's, and Johnnie Walker whisky, Smirnoff vodka and Gordon's gin.

It also boasts distribution joint ventures with French

luxury goods group Louis Vuitton, Moët Hennessey, the company's biggest shareholder, which brings to the party such prestigious names as Hennessey cognac and Moët et Chandon champagne.

The drinks sector is global in a way that few others are, and the theatre of war is expanded into emerging markets. It is, as the industry bible Impact International puts it, a "zero-sum game".

Success will depend on brand portfolios and distribution networks, and the Diageo merger is unlikely to be the last, especially when its competitors start to bleed.

At 24 Portland Place, near Diageo's plush West End headquarters, it is inconceivable that Tony Hales and Sir Christopher Hogg were popping champagne corks. They are the chief executive and chairman of Allied Domecq, Diageo's closest rival on the world stage but a very distant second in most markets.

The fashionable view has been that Allied Domecq is a lame duck, waiting for a takeover bid to put it out of its misery. Before they announced their wedding, Guinness and GrandMet were both seen as possible suitors.

There is an alternative view which suggests that Allied — whose brands include Beefeater gin and Courvoisier cognac — is really in quite a strong position.

Allied's second place in the world pecking-order still makes it a dominant player — particularly in Mexico and Spain, where Pedro Domecq, which merged with Allied Lyons three years ago, was a heavyweight player.

Even senior managers at Diageo admit that Allied's distribution operation is powerful enough to sustain it, despite competition from the new drinks powerhouse.

One senior Diageo director said: "We're not thinking about Allied, as it's always better not to look into your reverse mirror. But their position is stronger than a lot of people think."

But what will Allied do? A demerger, flagged up at Allied's recent results announcement, would be one option. The spirits arm is doing well, as are Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin Robbins, its fast-food operations.

But Allied is seen as being weak in its pubs business, from regional names like Ind Coupe to chains like Firkin and Big Steak Pub.

Mr Hales boasted that where rival groups had been falling over themselves to spend on building branded pub-chains, Allied had not. Sadly, it shows. Even Allied insiders refer to Big Steak as a "big mistake".

But a demerger is only one option. A likelier course is an alliance with another international spirits group.

Even with the global consolidation of the industry, which now seems inevitable, that route is fraught with snags. Several players are family-owned or controlled, including America's Bacardi and the French pair Pernod Ricard and Rémy Cointreau.

Most analysts believe these family-controlled groups will feel the pinch long before Allied — even Bacardi, unquestionably the world's strongest spirits brand.

A tie-up with Moët Hennessey is out of the question since it is part of the Diageo juggernaut as a result of cross-shareholdings and distribution joint-ventures.

But the signs are that Allied will look to the United States for a partner, with American Brands and Brown-Forman top of the list.

American Brands also needs a deal. Its flagship brand, Jim Beam, has seen falling sales, but its strong whisky portfolio would complement Allied's stable, particularly as Allied is strong where American is weak.

The other potential partner is Brown-Forman, owner of fast-growing Jack Daniels and Southern Comfort. Brown-Forman's strongest suit is also its bourbons, although it is admired for its product development skills and for winning US distribution contracts for European brands.

A rival executive says: "I'm amazed no one has really picked up on the possibility of Allied merging with American Brands or Brown-Forman. It's an obvious move."

OBVIOUS they may be, but they do not set the City on fire. Analysts' most desirable deal instead involves Canadian combine Seagram, which owns Universal film studios, the MCA record business and drink brands such as Captain Morgan, Chivas Regal and Martell.

Seagram's potential is doubly fascinating because it is often suggested as a partner

for Britain's EMI music group. Its position is made all the more inscrutable because despite being quoted, Seagram sometimes behaves like a family company.

It is headed by Edgar Bronfman, Jr, grandson of Samuel, who bought it at the height of the prohibition era in 1928.

The family still controls 36 per cent of the company. Since taking the helm three years ago, Mr Bronfman has reshaped Seagram's sprawling business into two focused operations.

He has amassed some awesome firepower for the group, recently having sold a stake in Time Warner for \$1.4 billion. With a remaining holding worth another \$1.5 billion, Seagram clearly has room for manoeuvre.

Another stumbling block could prove to be Allied's insistence on a proper deal rather than a joint-venture where control and ownership could be ambiguous.

According to Sir Christopher, Allied does not need to dash into any deal since it is already generating cash and strengthening its previously bedraggled balance sheet.

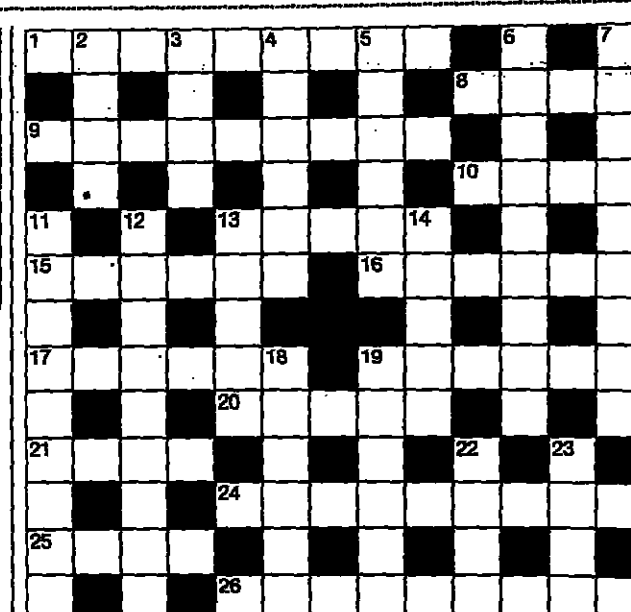
But he admitted: "The Diageo merger has caused all of us to re-examine our strategies, and there is greater flexibility in looking at consolidation."

"There is value in consolidation, as volume growth is hard to come by." Unfortunately for Sir Christopher, Mr Bronfman and the rest, pondering tie-ups in the comfort of their armchairs is no longer an option. Before long, if Diageo has its way, it will become an obligation.

Quick Crossword No. 8607

DOWNINGSTREET
I E N E O R R
T E R C O M P O S E
O T I I L L A
H A U N T I N G U S E D
P I I C I L
O L I E N T A L C O V E
A N G M A N
B A S E D E C R E P I T
P E R I A N D
A D D R A T I O N I N N
O K S W E N I
E L E C T R O S T A T I C

Solution No. 8606



Across

- 1 Refraining from alcohol (5)
- 8 Not made up (4)
- 9 Spanish gentleman (5)
- 10 Aperture for coins (4)
- 13 Faithful (5)
- 15 Fighting — a law suit (6)
- 16 Sexual desire (6)
- 17 Revokes (6)
- 19 Opportunity (5)
- 20 Restrict (5)
- 21 Unfriendly — inhospitable (4)
- 24 Total (5)

Down

- 2 Boast (4)
- 3 Snare (4)
- 4 River in Canada (6)
- 5 Usual (6)
- 6 Outstandingly clever (5)
- 7 German composer (5)
- 11 Barrier (5)
- 12 Specify as a condition (5)
- 13 Regional (5)
- 14 Entertaining — fair (5)
- 18 Loiter (5)
- 19 Fruit resembling lemon (5)
- 22 Elderly (4)
- 23 Stupefy (4)

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If we don't, we'll give you back double the difference.

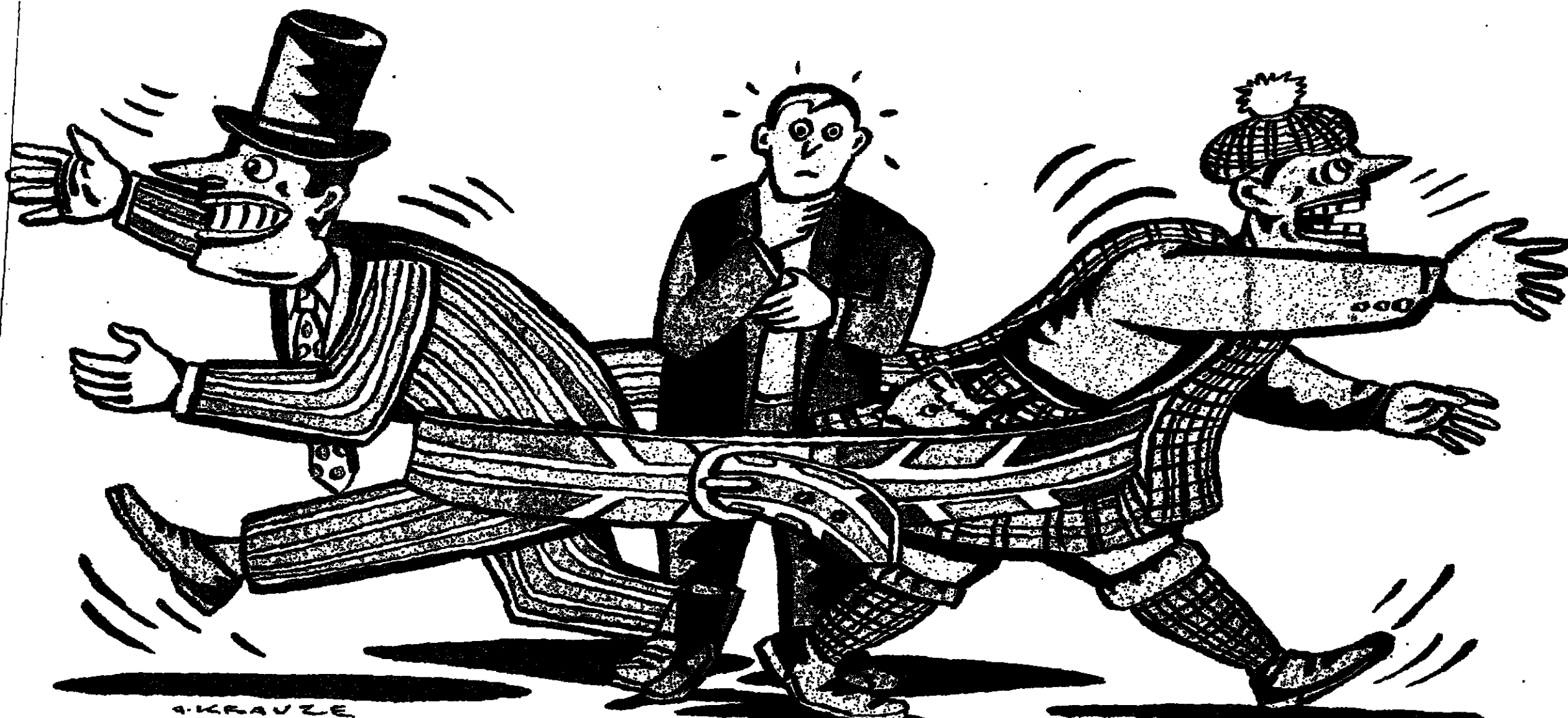
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5:15 من الراحل

the week

Saturday November 29 1997



Many Scots can't wait to ditch their Britishness. That's misguided, says **Ian Jack**, it's a way of linking our separate identities

Nation shall speak unto nation

ONE OF Tony Blair's greatest tricks has been to make his party seem like the natural home of British patriotism: New Labour equals New Britain (equals the late Princess of Wales equals the Spice Girls equals a devoted parliament in Edinburgh). During his speech to the Labour Party conference in September, Blair used the word "Britain" 53 times, "country" 31 times, and "nation" 19 times ("new" got 33 mentions).

Britain, he told the conference, could be "a beacon (eight mentions) to the world". In the next month, at the Commonwealth meeting in Edinburgh, he spoke of a "new young Britain" that was modern, enterprising, outward-looking and compassionate: "a maritocracy where we break down the barriers of class, religion, race and culture."

In these two speeches and in others, he has spoken of Britain as a "great" country and a "pivotal" nation. In Manchester, during his election campaign in April, I heard him tell an audience of diplomats that Britain had a history of greatness, deserved to "lead Europe and had the best-trained armed forces in the world". I was surprised to hear him speak like this; I don't think many of us understood, even only a couple of weeks before his victory, just how completely he had

ditched old Labour attitudes and (such as they were) beliefs.

Of course, this "New Britain" is a rhetorical device, a piece of marketing, complete with its slogans, videos and electronic versions of the national anthem. But it would be a mistake to think of it as only cosmetic, an idea as meaningless as the words "new and improved" on a box of soap powder. It reflects a certain reality.

Britain has changed in many fundamental ways over the past two decades. Blair has simply recognised social, cultural and economic facts which Conservative regimes, though they had helped bring these facts about, couldn't easily celebrate because "newness" has not in this century been included in their vocabulary of praise. When Margaret Thatcher or John Major wanted to evoke the British ideal, which in their case was usually an English ideal, they turned backwards to Churchill and the second world war or Orwell and his warm beer and bicycling nuns.

It was an appeal which, demographically, was bound to shrink and, for a party with a profound belief in the free market, it was also paradoxical. The restlessness and turbulence of unfettered capitalism is the greatest enemy of "tradition" and its sacred objects. How many bicycling nuns do you see on the M62? Does Liam Gal-

agher drink warm beer? Does Zoe Ball? Do you?

Nonetheless, a deceptive crust developed over the surface of British life — the same men in pinstriped suits refusing to answer the same questions put by Jeremy Paxman — which disguised the mess and change below. And so — the crust suddenly punctured, the lava of cappuccino spilling out — New Britain. The trick seems to be working.

Sightings of New Britons, however, are harder to discover. What kind of people feel they are British, would define themselves as such rather than English, Welsh or Scottish? Here they are in a survey as reported by the Economist — "barely half of the British themselves see Britishness as an important part of their identity... those who do tend to be aged over 55, male and under-educated."

Here they come again in Red Pepper magazine in a piece by the Scottish writer Tom Nairn: "I suspect the proletariats of West Scotland and South Wales (alone, side that of Ulster) played a greater part in constructing... Britishness than any other social class... to this day the most baying of Britoid voices sound from the left, notably in Wales."

I feel rather like a character in an H M Bateman cartoon (the man

who threw a snowball at St Moritz). I confess to the following: at various times and to varying extents I have felt British as well as Scottish. I know that national identities are slippery things once they are devoted to the individual and removed from the realms of national politics, Olympic stadiums, wars, football games and newspaper headlines. Still, to me, Britishness is not a cause for shame. I believe it is a useful description for a way of being, which permeates the separate identities and small differences of England, Wales and Scotland — that it is (though perhaps I mean should be) something more than Greater England.

This, among Scots, can be a lonely position. A few episodes of personal history may help to explain it.

Episode One: 1951

We live in Lancashire. I am six. My father and mother came south from Fife in 1930, my father to take a job as a fitter in a textile mill. Perhaps I am a young member of Tom Nairn's "proletariat". My father certainly leaned towards the Independent Labour Party and the Worker's Educational Association (both "Britoid" organisations). But I understand nothing of this. All I know — a small mark of difference — is that other boys ask me to say "four" and "five", so that

they can hear my Scottish "r" at the end.

Scottishness, per se, is not a badge of worth. Most of our friends are Lancashire people. A worker at the mill, on hearing we will go as usual to Scotland for our holidays, asks my father where the best leaves from. He is entirely serious. Englishness, per se, is not a badge of worth either. But despite this, my father refuses to attend meetings of the local Caledonian Society, which he describes as a lot of damned fools dressed in kilts.

I am given a children's book of Scottish history as a birthday present. It contains a picture of Robert the Bruce unhorsing an English knight at Bannockburn. My father tells me that Bruce was in fact a Norman aristocrat (though he would not have used that word) and that William Wallace was the far greater man. Forty-five years later I go to see Braveheart, the most influential film in Scottish political history. It is rubbish, but I remember my father and think of him as present.

Episode Two: 1952

My parents want to go back to Scotland. My father finds a job in a Dundee jute mill and takes lodgings in that city. If the family are to move with him, he will need to arrange a council-house exchange and find somebody in Dundee who

wants to move to Bolton. He advertises in the Courier. The only reply is from Kinneff, dozens of miles up the coast.

My father reaches the house by bus, where the woman asks him: "You'll be having English people as your neighbours then?" My father replies that, the house being in Bolton, this is naturally the case. Still, the woman seems keen enough; her daughters cannot find work in Kinneff. My father, however, discovers that the only way to reach Dundee from Kinneff in time to start work on the jute machinery is by the early morning fish van.

My father finds another job in his old home town, Dunfermline, and we swap houses with a family in North Queensferry. Five seems very different from Lancashire: the weather, the houses, the shops, the sweets, the things folk talk about. Later, many of these differences, apart from the weather, will vanish. New private housing estates will look just like those in Reading. North Queensferry will shop at Tesco and read about Fosha Spike, and fall asleep to the sound of traffic on the motorway just like Reading does.

Episode Three: 1956

A puzzle: where does Lord Snooty live? It could be in England — certainly no top hats and Eton collars can be seen in Queensferry. Des-

perate Dan seems to live in America. Might Snooty and his pals live in Dundee? One of them looks a bit like Soapy Soutar in Oor Wullie, the cartoon strip in the Sunday Post. Naturally, they are drawn by the same man, in Dundee.

Another puzzle: where does the BBC come from? Sometimes from Glasgow, sometimes Manchester, sometimes London. I listen to the Boys of Glenmorroch and Norman and Henry Bones, boy detectives. Does the former, being Scottish, if panified, mean more to me than the latter? (I cannot remember.) Later I listen to Hancock and the Goons. Later still, I watch mind-expanding, mind-altering programmes on BBC 1 and 2.

Much, much later, is now, I wonder why it is that in their "deconstruction of British identity" almost every analyst and historian ignores a popular culture which has roared through most of this century and can best be described as British. Including the newspapers: my father has given up the Daily Record in favour of the Daily Mirror, on the grounds that the Mirror has better writers and fewer parochial reports of time-ment-plunges. Also he likes the Garth cartoon.

Episode Four: 1959-62

I enter my third year at Dunfermline High School in long trousers. A few boys (page 14

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IAN MAYES OPEN DOOR

10-10-68

INTERVIEW: New York publishing guru Harry Evans is back in papers and fuming about them. **Martin Kettle** takes notes

Why news is still Harry's game

Like celebrities everywhere, Harold Evans is fuming about his coverage. "I thought there was an average of about three errors per story about me this morning," he says.

Give me an example, I ask. Well, my age for one thing. They've put an extra year on me, and that matters when you're as old as I am. So, just so that I get it right, how old are you? "I'm 66, not 70. And it really annoys me when people get these things wrong."

Isn't inaccuracy what people expect from newspapers nowadays? "I suppose it is, isn't it? But it damned well shouldn't be. I mean look at the Wall Street Journal today. It's very bad. It says I'd been eclipsed by younger editors. Just not true. I never had the title editor-in-chief here, quite deliberately I turned it down when it was offered to me. I was president and publisher, never editor. It's an important difference. I wanted to keep the editor-in-chief title vacant. Then I got Ann Godoff into the company. I got her here and it was my idea for her to become editor-in-chief. Then to say I was eclipsed, I wasn't. It's a total misrepresentation of the situation."

It seems absurd that Harold Evans could ever be either 69 or eclipsed. It's the afternoon before Thanksgiving Day and he's being driven across the George Washington Bridge into Manhattan. While most people are heading out of town for the long holiday weekend that will leave even workaholic New York empty, Evans is heading back to the office, displaying the kind of energy that would shame a man half his age and that continues to make him a living legend among editors on both sides of the Atlantic.

For Harold Evans is an editor again. On Tuesday this week, the former editor of the Northern Echo, the Sunday Times and the Times resigned from his New York Random House publishing empire to become editorial director of a group of publications which include New York's Daily News tabloid, and magazines like the US News & World Report and the Atlantic Monthly. For the generation of journalists which reveres him, the response to Tuesday's announcement was a bit like the message sent out by the Admiralty when Churchill joined the War Cabinet in 1939. Then it was, "Winston's back". This time it was "Harry's back".

It was a pretty exhausting day, he says. "I gathered everyone together to make the announcement. There were a lot of tears and a lot of emotion. I was pretty close to tears myself at times, thinking of all the exciting battles we've been through together over the years. Ann spoke. I spoke. Vitale spoke — briefly. Unfortunately there was only one bottle

of champagne anywhere in the building and there weren't enough plastic cups."

Controversy surrounds Evans whenever he leaves a job. What the media village wanted to know this week was: did he leave this time, or was he pushed from Random House? There were stories of conflicts with his successor Ann Godoff, and relations with chief executive Alberto Vitale were never easy. But Evans, as he would say later in the interview, is a Pangloss. He has never been able to stop himself from putting a positive spin on anything he is involved with.

Of the seven years at Random House, Evans says "I have had such fantastic years here, and it's such a wrench to be leaving. We're just about to go to the sales conferences and there is going to be a spectacular year there next year. It's all in tremendous fettle."

Godoff, the way Evans tells it, is simply the beneficiary of Evans's planned restructuring at Random House. "Ann's got a more focused division. I had almost too broad a remit. My scheme all along has been to focus it."

He dismisses the Vitale stories too. "Alberto is tough. He's tough with everyone. He shouts at everyone. No, actually he's never shouted at me. He brought me in. People keep trying to make stories out of nothing."

Of the complaints that he spent too much on authors, he says "Look, everyone pays too much, here and at other publishers. Sure I paid \$6 million for General Colin Powell's book, but that's still selling very steadily. It was said I paid too much for Marlon Brando, and I did. It was said I paid too much for Dick Morris, and I did. It's a pity he was only interested in women's toes, but there you are. But I really resent this suggestion that I overpaid and that that was unusual."

He insists that "the people peering in through the window" have got it all wrong. "I could have been here until the year 2000. It was in my new contract that I signed only this year. I made sure that I could leave with three months notice. It was a one way deal, by the way. They couldn't give me three months notice."

There has been speculation in Manhattan, always authoritatively quashed in London but persistent nevertheless, that Evans had been in line for a job from the new Blair government. "Well, they didn't make me Archbishop of Canterbury," he now says, "and Mort Zuckerman had been pressing me to join him for ages. I just thought it was the right time to go. "Anyway," he says, "all this is past. It doesn't matter anymore. Let's talk about newspapers."

So we do. Or rather Evans does, irresistibly even movingly. He claims that in his new role he will spend his time "on a slow burn",



Press-ganged again... "It would be piquant to put one over on Rupert. But I'm not out to do that"

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL O'NEILL

'There's a trend to using scandal sheets as the basis of a story, and that has to be resisted. But I think quality will prevail. I really do'

keeping his distance and not getting involved.

"I'm not going to spend my nights on the back bench at the Daily News. I won't be writing headlines and selecting pictures. And I won't be going to news conferences either."

All this is hard to believe. Listening to Evans talking about newspapers, you soon remember that he's a newspaper junkie. This man is a recidivist editor.

"I may go to news conferences at the US News & World Report," he confesses. I suggest that they should try to stop him. He laughs. "You're right, but I don't intend to be some kind of Genghis Khan." So that's all right, then.

"Look, when I was editing the Sunday Times, I had Denis Hamilton as chairman, and he played the sort of role I see myself playing now. Not antagonistic at all. What was it Bagshot said about the role of the monarch? To advise, to warn and to encourage. That's how I shall try to act."

Not Genghis Khan, then, but still a king. And a pretty interventionist one, to judge by what he says next. "I will ask questions. I will ask questions like 'What should our foreign coverage be? Where should we have

our bureaux? Are we using pictures properly? Maybe, we should redesign the paper?"

I try to ask a question of my own. It is an obvious and a cruel one and I am slightly ashamed to ask it. Isn't Harold Evans, whether 69 or 70, yesterday's man?

If he notices the concern, it doesn't show. "Look, things have changed in newspapers, obviously they have. With television and the Net, people go elsewhere for the immediacy of the news. But don't you ever kid yourself that newspapers are a doomed medium. No one has ever invented anything to match the power of good editing to make a story. And nothing has ever been invented to challenge the investigative power of the good reporter. There's no way that you can get discriminating investigation on the Web. No way. You can't do it. You can't get journalism on the Internet. And there is nothing that can challenge the coherent organising power of an editorial vision."

Evans is into his stride now. "The real challenge is to maintain the quality. I'm a Pangloss. I believe that quality will reward itself. If you want to see what can go wrong if you abandon quality then look at American television

news. It's been made into just another profit centre and the ratings have gone down."

One of my anxieties is that newspapers have to keep on finding and recruiting talented people. I don't want people who are just obsessed with the knocking angle. I think the whole personality hunt in journalism is really cheesy. I'm a boy scout when it comes to newspapers."

But how do you stop the pressure on newspapers to become ever more obsessed with trivia and personalities? "I think you are asking the great question for journalism in our times. I will say this. We must not pretend that it's not a problem. It is. But I'm with the editor who said that the job of a paper is to be 'ameliorative, investigative and positive'."

I know I shouldn't say this to you, but I think the Guardian has done some great things in its sleaze investigations. And the writing is so good too. The writing in the British press is so superior to most of the American press."

Which brings us to Rupert Murdoch, with whom Evans fought such a gallant but losing battle at the Times. Murdoch's New York Post tabloid will be Evans's chief rival when he takes over the Daily

News. Inevitably it is being seen as Evans's last chance to settle his accounts with the great tycoon.

"If I was getting into editing the Daily News then that would be apposite. It would be very satisfying to make the News beat the Post anyway. And it would be piquant to put one over on Rupert. But I'm not out to do that. I've always said he's a brilliant man in some ways. I think he did our industry a great favour at Wapping. Remember that the most attractive character in Paradise Lost was Lucifer."

By his side, the phone rings yet again. "We'll have to stop. It's my wife." He makes it sound as if she's rung to make sure he'll be home for supper, but since Evans's equally famous partner is Tina Brown, networker supreme and editor of the New Yorker, this seems unlikely. Yet, as it turns out, that's exactly what the call is about.

"I'll have to go. I want to see my kids. But let me just say this to you. I have an unqualified contempt for some of what passes for journalism today. There's a very definite trend towards using the supermarket sheets as the basis of a story, and that has to be resisted. But we can do it. I think quality will prevail. I really do."

SIMON HOGGART'S WEEK

Skinflints' charter to take from the skint

WHAT does £1 mean to you? It's almost nothing these days, provided you're middle class and earning a steady income. It translates as a half of a penny, a Sunday paper, a children's comic, or the amount most of us toss casually into a charity collection box.

But for a lot of people — to take an example at random, single parents — a pound coin represents real money. It's the difference between poverty and dreary demeaning poverty relieved by a few small pleasures. The £11 some single mothers will lose under the Government's plans may represent four children's cinema tickets, or a curry and a pint of Kingfisher, or a contribution to the office leaving present for many Guardian readers and Labour MPs, but to the poor it is wealth.

Many New Labour apparatchiks seem to have forgotten this. They don't see that the policy inflicts needless cruelty on the few while, by making an imperceptible

change to public borrowing, doing little for the many. Now 120 MPs, not all of them raging lefties, have written to the Chancellor. I don't suppose anything will happen as a result, but it's a start.

ANOTHER election pledge the Government is in danger of forgetting is its promise to make judges, police and magistrates declare whether they are freemasons. The struggle is between Lord Irvine — set to become one of the great non-reforming Lord Chancellors of the century — and Jack Straw. The Home Secretary has retreated at Mr Irvine's insistence, and conceded that, at best, the register will be voluntary.

Earlier this year I helped make a documentary about the freemasons for BBC2. The film was not abusive but was critical, so I expected stacks of letters from angry masons explaining how they were nothing more than a charitable organisation (when you look, it turns out the charities are nearly all for the children and widows of

freemasons), harmless chaps whose only quiet pleasure was upholding the law of the land.

In fact, nearly all the letters were from people who felt that the masons had ruined their lives. Many, I'm sure, were green-inkers who, if they hadn't blamed the boys in the bowler hats, would have pinned their misfortunes on deadly rays from outer space. Others might have a point.

The freemasons say that it's unfair to single them out. They point out that members of gardening clubs and Rotaries wouldn't have to register. But then gardeners don't swear secret oaths of undying loyalty over the trowels and grubbers.

It looks as if the masons have won, since Lord Irvine appears to set his face against anything which might bring the faintest distress or inconvenience to the judiciary.

NOR, I suspect, will he do anything about lawyers' fees. A fortnight ago I complained about

these, and especially the case of a gardener who had contested a will — he had quite a reasonable case — lost, and was ruined by the £50,000 legal bills.

This week a woman, Lyne Griffiths, may have to pay tens of thousands in fees after a convicted rapist won the right to sue her for

Will Lord Irvine set about reforming the 'cab rank' system? Sure and one day I'll play rugby for the All Blacks

libel. The man, David Daniels, who is said to have a "pathological" obsession with Mrs Griffiths, is represented by Charlie Booth QC, the Prime Minister's wife.

With an annual household income of well over £300,000, the Blairs perhaps need the fees to provide those little comforts which

make life worth living. Mrs Griffiths, by contrast, probably won't be able to afford Christmas at all.

Barriers always hammer on about the "cab rank" principle which, they claim, obliges them to take up whichever case comes next, however distasteful it might be. In fact, barristers can generally wriggle out of cases they really don't want to take on.

Then again, cabbies don't force you to use them, don't operate a monopoly of their trade, and don't charge you £250 per hour plus expenses.

Will Lord Irvine set about reforming the system and its abuse? Sure, and one day I'll play rugby for the All Blacks.

BY THE way Lord Irvine is upset by the allegation that one prominent Labour back-bencher had lost any chance of promotion because of a joke he made at his expense. The joke, told at a legal dinner just before the election, was, approximately: "There'll be no change at the Lord Chancellor's

office. We'll still have a dour, Presbyterian, teetotal Scot. Or at least a Scot."

Irvine was so cross he demanded apologies all round, not to himself, but to Cherie Blair and the man who told the joke, Bob Marshall-Andrews, now Labour MP for Medway, has not been given a job. But he is a newcomer, and I feel sure there is no connection.

KIDS' joke: What did the slug say to the snail? "Big Issue, sir!"

SINCE the death of Princess Diana our monarchy has become globalised on a scale we can barely imagine. Living in the States, I used to think that the Americans had become obsessed; now the disease appears to have spread all over the world. The other day I was chatting to the London correspondent of ZDF, one of the German TV networks. He said that they had actually carried half an hour more about the royal wedding anniversary than the BBC had, and that viewing figures had tripled.

Is Turner a frame-up?

HEAD TO HEAD: IS THE TURNER PRIZE HUNG UP ON CONCEPTUAL ART?



Yes

David Lee
Art critic

Dear Tracey,

It must be galling for you that the Turner Prize winner will be announced on Tuesday night from the first all-woman shortlist and, despite the lobbying blitz orchestrated by your gallery during the last year, you are not on it. Luckily for you there's always next year because, unlike non-conceptual artists, at least you are still eligible. Meanwhile, I suggest you and your fellow conceptualists spend more time refining the visual qualities of what you exhibit and less time courting publicity. Whistler was right, only the visual counts in art and the rest is claptrap.

Over the last 10 years the Turner Prize, always selected by the scrupulously like-minded, has institutionalised conceptual art to the exclusion of all other denominations of work. This is publicly-funded censorship. In the Soviet Union, Socialist Realism dominated, now in Britain the State Academy of Contemporary Art, under the auspices of the Turner Prize, endorses Conceptualism. Why should the public, through the Turner Prize, the Tate Gallery and the Arts Council, support only one segment of contemporary art activity? This was never the intention when state arts funding was devised in 1946 and it shouldn't be now.

Conceptual art exerts an unhealthy monopoly — the Turner Prize has been won eight times out of 12 by artists from only two galleries. Fishy eh? In any other area of government such an elitist closed shop would be referred to a commission. Of course, the most damaging effect of conceptual art's supremacy is that it kills off other approaches to visual art by encouraging students down a track with a regular timetable of gray trains running along it.

Love,
David Lee,
Editor, Art Review

Dear David,

I found your letter warming. Thank you very much for your kind compliments — it must be very difficult not being in the conceptual league, and I understand how it feels to be an outsider. I too spent a few years in the wilderness of second-rate art. But I must say I find your condescending remarks



No

Tracey Emin
Artist

unwarranted. There is no great wheel of publicity, no private club, the door is open. Have you been to the Tate to see the Turner Prize Exhibition? Or to the Royal Academy to view Sensation? I went today and I saw hundreds of people queuing outside. The hundreds inside viewing the art were taking pleasure and interest in what they saw.

Can so many people be wrong? Who are you to judge? Our success is built on hard work and conviction in new times, new ideas, belief in humanity, and the questioning of all things. We are from a classless generation, we despise conservative values, we have a respect for the art that went before us.

We have the ability to draw and paint (and some of us do), we have an understanding of religion, philosophy, and a great appreciation of the history of art, socially and politically. But we are free to create and taste in the most exciting way, we do it for ourselves. Any scientist in 1997 who claimed to invent relativity, I would feel sorry for.

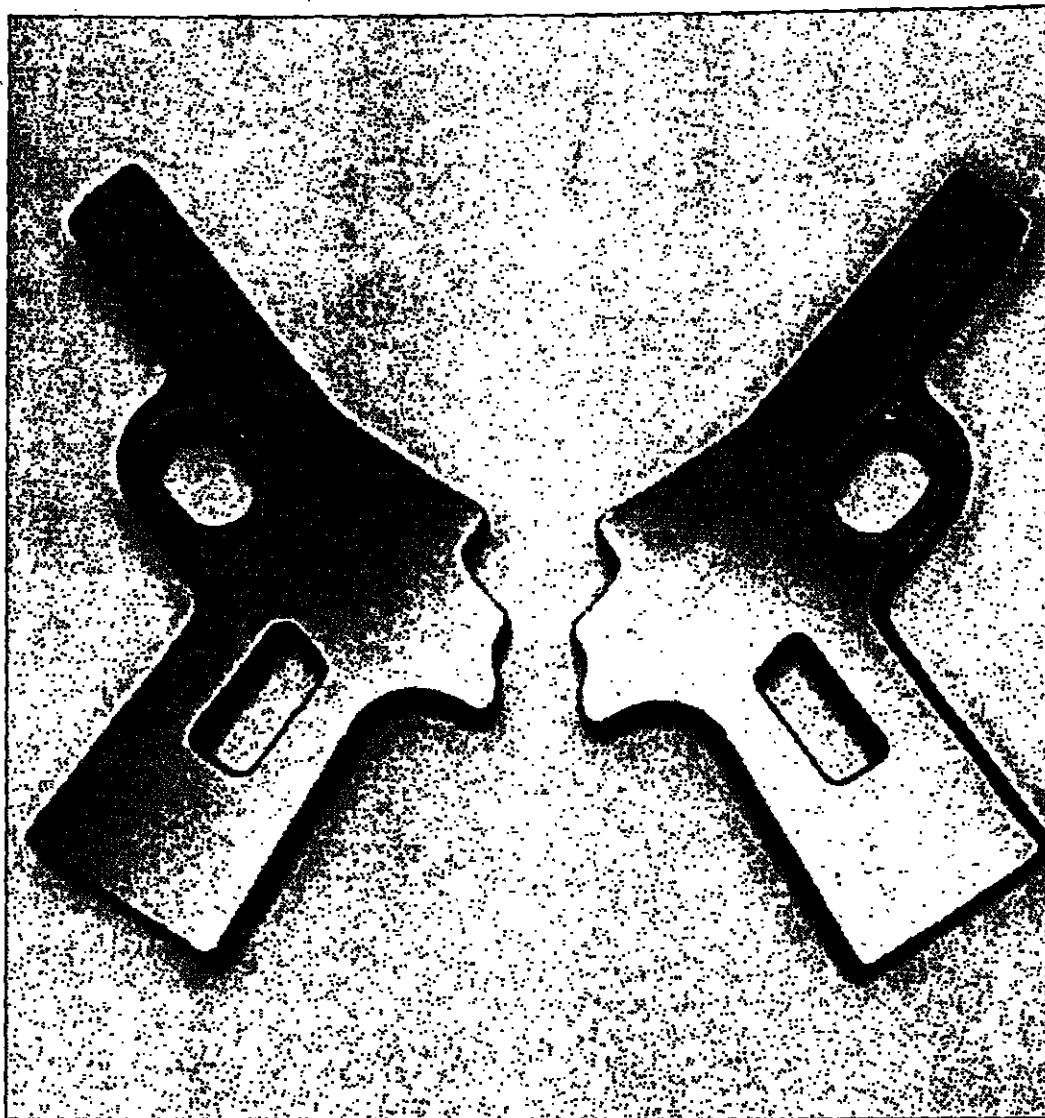
My heart goes out to you,
Tracey Emin

Dear Tracey,

So young, so concerned, so feisty, so knowledgeable, so delightfully illiterate. Believe me, I have nothing but admiration for your passion. If only you'd have me painting to be the next name in your tent.

Your assumption that any non-conceptual art is by definition second-rate is an impressive arrogance. It is also a misapprehension informing much of the defensive propaganda put about by your fellow members in the State Academy of Contemporary Art. Art today embraces more than just the conceptual, and each different discipline, traditional or otherwise, has its Damien. My argument is not that all conceptual art is worthless — of course it isn't — it is that deserving artists working in other ways are ignored precisely because of the fashionable obsession with the conceptual.

Like many of your chums you've done well out of public funding, having seen your work validated by exhibitions in public galleries. The Tate and the Arts Council, not forgetting their export division in the British Council, have been allowed to get away with institutionalising



Off target? Cornelia Parker's *Embryo Firearms* (1995), a contender for this year's Turner Prize

a narrow obsession. This is unfair and it helps foster the sad belief among many that all of contemporary art is a confidence trick.

I have seen Sensation and the Turner Prize exhibition and both are triumphs of publicity over content. I can understand your desire to interpret high attendances as an endorsement but you are not the first to extrapolate falsely that crowds signify appreciation. Given the weight of publicity generated by both shows, is it surprising that there are queues? How do you know these people are not attending as they might be tempted into a fairground sideshow promising a view of The Hairiest Woman in the World? Please explain where the art resides in a pair of earplugs made from fluff collected in the Whispering Gallery of St Paul's Cathedral. I'm desperate to know. Honest.

Ever yours,
Dave

Dear David,

I found your last letter extremely mean. What if I am illiterate? Who cares if I left school at 13 and have no command of written English. I still have the right to a voice. I went to art school in the early eighties — Maidstone College of Art. Everything I was taught there was based on a Marxist theory I spent three of the happiest years of my life having it drummed into my head that there is an equal level for all.

My favourite artists are: Edward Munch, Frida Kahlo, Egon Schiele. Andy Warhol is pretty sexy. Bruce Nauman's a smart genius, and the list goes on and on. I'm free to

enjoy whatever I want, like people I saw at the Sensation show. They were talking, laughing, discussing art. What is your problem? Why are you so angry?

Yours sincerely,
Tracey
PS: Just for the record, I have received extremely little public funding. I apply continuously but I am always turned down. My museum is financed privately. I have between 1,500 and 2,000 visitors a year. My South London Gallery show was underfunded. Myself and Jay Jopling/White Cube financed the production cost. My show received 8,000 visitors.

One last word. The British Council is excellent. Yes, you have given me a hell of a lot of support. Royal Bloody Britain.

Dear Tracey,

You protest too much, methinks. You're too defensive about literacy and education. But if you like Schiele, this century's greatest draughtsman, there's still hope. What bothers me is that conceptual art is alleged to concern ideas. I find your work and that of many conceptualists visually inadequate, neither beautiful nor formally or technically accomplished. One looks, moves on and need never return.

Good art, by contrast, has inexhaustible stamina. When I point out this shortcoming to artists they say "Ah, it's not just what you see but the underlying idea." This would be fine if their ideas were more than extremely tiny ones, of which the work is merely a perfunctory illus-

tration. Had Shakespeare only written the words "sleep" and "death" in the belief that the bald idea of the similarity between the two states, rather than the expression of it through power of language, was sufficient, we would have missed out on some great poetry. Too many conceptual artists progress no further than the obvious "sleep and death" stage. This is not enough for the purpose of making art.

Good luck,
David

Dear Sad F***,
First, don't patronise me. And secondly how the hell did you even get to be an editor of an art magazine, crap though it is.

You just don't get it, do you? Us young, trendy, happy-go-lucky conceptualists like to think about what we do. We are responsible for what we put out into the world. And whether you like it or not, some of us are incredibly skilled at what we do. You seem to suffer from some terrible professional jealousy. I guess you're at that middle-aged male crisis thing: when you look back and realise you have achieved nothing of value and worth to the world. And you see people like me, and it just hurts you so much.

You see, I'm free. You — you're just sleazy and frustrated.

End,
Tracey

PS Hope you get off on the publicity.
Channel 4's live broadcast of the Turner Prize awards is at 9pm on Tuesday, followed by a discussion on modern art from the Tate Gallery.

JEREMY HARDY

Selective schools? Just try to find one that isn't

I am confused. Everyone's talking about whether selective schooling should be retained or extended. The impression given is that this debate refers to a handful of old-fashioned grammar schools in key marginals. In my part of south London, almost every state school is now selective. And because we don't have a properly constituted education authority, parents have to apply directly to individual schools.

At least when I was 10, I just sat one silly test. Kids round here are sitting separate entry exams for six or seven schools. Some are being offered places at all of them and some are being rejected by all of them. Has anyone considered what this is doing to children's mental well-being?

I have a solution to the chaos of league tables that are currently used to evaluate schools. Parents are scouring pages of official figures and then pages of alternative figures, in order to conclude that, on balance, they would like their child to go to the school she doesn't have a hope of getting into. Wouldn't it be easier to have a league table of children?

The task of selecting children is bewildering for schools. There are so many children, some appealing, some less so. You've got to make a decision that affects your school's whole future, and that's a lot of pressure. You know that exam results aren't everything and the main thing is that the school is happy. But the fact is, your school's going to need those grades in years to come.

You can look at the results children have achieved in recent years, and you'll get an impression of them when they sit your entrance exam. But there are so many other things to take into consideration when choosing the right children for your school.

Some are local, some not. Some have excellent domestic facilities with good parent-to-child ratio, a spacious learning environment and a pleasant outdoor play area. Others have homes with polky, shared rooms, too many kids and not enough parents. You think you've chosen the right child for your school and then, suddenly the head of the family leaves and everything's up in the air.

If children were individually assessed by panels of inspectors, not just turning up one day for a cursory visit, but sitting in on the life of a child for a week or so, we'd all have a much clearer indication of the state of our nation's children. Newspapers could publish tables, naming and shaming children. To satisfy liberal concerns, the figures could then be adjusted to make allowances for shyness, parental absence, dyslexia, poverty, native language and so on, to show what

children have made of the raw material at their disposal. Now, I'm not suggesting that 10-year-olds should be branded as good or bad for the rest of their lives. I was thinking more along the lines of a computerised implant. These could be cosmetically treated by skin grafts, so a much more accurate picture of a child's potential could be recorded on a chip on his or her forehead, or maybe in a tag that can't be removed. All these things are open to discussion and review, I'm just brainstorming here.

Another suggestion is that all schools should interview the children who apply in the way that private schools do. More and more parents are now considering private education, because they are scared. Most people who send their children to private schools don't consider state education for a moment; they don't want to know what local state schools are like and don't even know where they are. But, increasingly, parents who do believe in state education are peering and deciding to go private when they start looking at secondary school league tables.

So, while trying to get their child into one of the high-performing state schools, they're also, as a backup, trying to get together the money for a private school and trying to prepare their child for an interview.

So let's make a virtue of interviews. At present, parents who are not trained in counselling are having to tell their child that he or she is a failure, not just once but repeatedly. So, my suggestion is that every child applying to every

I suggest a computerised chip so an accurate picture of a child's potential could be recorded on the forehead

school should attend an interview and be told then and there whether they've got a place.

If a school is prepared to reject a child, the selectors should be prepared to tell that child to her face that she's blown it. Not a letter to parents with insincere regrets in it. Not an indecent break-off of communications for a period of weeks during which parents are left to assume the worst. The child waits outside for a moment, the decision is made, and then child walks back in and hears it straight from the horse's mouth.

"Face it kid, we don't want you here. Oh, it's not that you're stupid which you are incidentally — it's a whole lot of things. You screwed up the minute you walked in here. You were nervous. What good is that in today's world? Honey, it's a global economy out there. Nervous won't cut it. You're going to face a lifetime of interviews."

"People are going to ask you why you want to work for them. What are you going to say? 'It's nice'? 'I like the gym'? Some of my friends are here? Your friend Charlotte, by the way she got in. Say goodbye, she's coming here. And do you want to know why? Because she told us she wants to be stressed so that she can reach her full potential. And do you know why she said that? Because her parents are professional people, that's why. So she gets the straw hat and you go to Sweatshirt High. But hey you're cute — you might have a future. And stop crying. Jesus, no wonder nobody wants you."

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SMALLWEED

THE PREENING restaurant critic A A Gill conceded last Sunday that he rarely writes about places far out of London. He defended himself on these lines: "Read in the titles tends not to be very good; one would scarcely wish to have lunch in Devizes. Well, for many years, Smallweed has thought of Devizes as one of the most agreeable towns in England. Start in the Market Place and walk on to Long Street, looking back down the street as you go. It's a lovely piece of unpremeditated townscape, and there's more if you look for it. Stonehenge is not far to the south and Avebury to the north and in any hard, decent weather, the roads north towards Swindon and Marlborough and east to the Vale of Pewsey are glorious. And now there's this fresh attraction which makes it still more delectable: you can eat where you like any afternoon in the week without meeting A A Gill. Utopia!"

SMALLWEED is asked to use his influence to reduce the proliferation in newspapers of the word cusp. This complaint comes a little late. The peak months for cusps in the British Press were June and July: this was mainly due to a burst of cusp-invocation by sportswriters. What is a cusp, exactly? The reference usually seems to be to astrology, where one reads of the cusp between, for instance, Pisces and whoever lives next door. In the league of overused words, cusp has yet to catch up with beleaguered and its cousin embattled, but it gets in often enough to suggest promiscuous use. Let writers turn instead to words which have fallen into desuetude. How often, for instance, does anyone nowadays talk of a cusk? A cusk, to save you looking it up, is defined as a torsk or burbot.

THE PREENING restaurant critic A A Gill conceded last Sunday that he rarely writes about places far out of London. He defended himself on these lines: "Read in the titles tends not to be very good; one would scarcely wish to have lunch in Devizes. Well, for many years, Smallweed has thought of Devizes as one of the most agreeable towns in England. Start in the Market Place and walk on to Long Street, looking back down the street as you go. It's a lovely piece of unpremeditated townscape, and there's more if you look for it. Stonehenge is not far to the south and Avebury to the north and in any hard, decent weather, the roads north towards Swindon and Marlborough and east to the Vale of Pewsey are glorious. And now there's this fresh attraction which makes it still more delectable: you can eat where you like any afternoon in the week without meeting A A Gill. Utopia!"

NEW LABOUR people complain that cycles keep knocking them. If they want that to stop, they should look more closely at some of the things they say. Harriet Harman was reported as saying in some media encounter on the Government's plans to get single parents to work: "com-

pulsion is not an issue." There are two kinds of political issues: those defined by the parties, and those defined by their customers. If people are worried, it is an issue, and a government which claims to belong to the people shouldn't say otherwise. Then there is Stuart Bell, who speaks on Church of England matters in the Commons, telling the C of E to pull up its socks. "Tony Blair is a mod-ernising, moderate, liberal, he roars at cringing prelates. If I were the Church of England (which God forbid) I would find this alarming. Soon men with clipboards will be asking modern questions about the liturgy. All this stuff about the Trinity: it's not playing that well in the focus groups. These references you make now and then to Hell. Isn't that rather old hat? People won't vote God on that basis, you know... And so on. They are probably at it already."

THE BILL may be doomed, but hunting increasingly looks to be doomed as well. Don't these do-gooding MPs know it's a civil liberties issue? "It is one thing to disapprove of hunting," Neil Moore of St Mawes wrote to the Times this week, "quite another to seek to impose that view on others by legislation. I am alarmed by the arrogant, even totalitarian attitude which says in effect: 'I

do not approve, therefore you must not do it.'" How very true! It is time these holier-than-thou Nanny State so-called do-gooders stopped interfering with people's rights to do as they choose. For instance: reading his words, Smallweed was seized by this sudden urge to speed off to St Mawes and thump Neil Moore's silly head. Yet I'm warned that if I do, some holier-than-thou Nanny State do-gooding fellow in blue with a helmet might try to stop me! As the Marquess of Vauxwarrington once remarked in a totally different context: it's a bit bloody much.

DO NOT ALWAYS agree with the Mail on Sunday, but what the novelist Michael Dobbs had to say last week about Gary Glitter's computer has my wholehearted support. As has been widely reported, when Glitter's computer went into PC World, Bristol, to be repaired, things were found on it which caused searching questions to be asked by some holier-than-thou Nanny State do-gooding fellow in blue with a helmet.

The astonishing thing about these reports, wrote Dobbs, was that PC World were actually carrying out a repair. Instead of as normal ignoring phone calls, not keeping promises, and never letting you

speak to the same person twice. As a fellow victim of this company's service arrangements, I know how he feels. Since Toshiba, who unlike PC World are sorry when things go wrong and make real efforts to right them, are going to replace my machine, I shall in my usual generous way employ its techniques to design a coat of arms for PC World's so-called Mastercare service, with a service director couchant, a phone decreased (that's heraldic for off the hook) and the motto: "Cusped Emptor."

MANCHESTER CITY'S football ground, it's reported to become a train terminal. I gather beleaguered managers from all over the country are coming to play a couple of trains in central defence, both to ease the transition for fans and on account of their greater mobility. It is even thought to be possible...

A dermatologist writes: You say that a cusk is a burbot. What's a burbot? Smallweed generously explains: Cusk, torsk and burbot — they're all kinds of fish. Perhaps if you cross a torsk with a burbot, you get a burbot. Who knows? As the Marquess of Vauxwarrington once said in a totally different context: these things are entirely beyond me.

Doonesbury



THE BEST OF MY WEEK ...

... SAYS JANET GEORGE of the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance: "We camped overnight outside Parliament. The whole week has been fun — spending time with people prepared to fight for something they care passionately about. Then there was being spirited away in a taxi as an angry mob shouted 'scumbags' and 'bloody murderers.' It was intimidating but the more we see of the vocal opposition, the more we know we're right. Tonight it's back to Shropshire for the United Hunt."

Sisters under the skin

Forget girl power, when women get together they mean business. So what's so surprising, asks **Lisa Jardine**, about Victoria Spencer and Paula Yates being supported by former rivals in times of trouble?



Friends in need: Paula Yates, above, right, with Helena Christensen; Victoria Spencer, far right with Chantal Collopy
PHOTOGRAPHS (from left above) DAVID GRAY, MEGAN LEWIS, SARA KRALJ

There is a long-standing tradition that women resort to extremes of violence when circumstances lead them to compete against one another. The high point of my final year at primary school was when the twins, Sally and Jennifer, rolled all the way down three flights of the main staircase locked in ferocious combat, after they had discovered that the most desirable boy in the class was courting both of them.

It is widely assumed, short of violence, that a woman will see another woman encroaching on her territory as a direct threat. When a committee on which I sat at the University of London appointed a second woman professor for my department, a distinguished male colleague stopped me in the senior common room to express surprise that I should have consented to her appointment, "since she is so much prettier than you". Wasn't I ready to scratch her eyes out?

So there was general astonishment when Earl Spencer's wife Victoria and his former mistress Chantal Collopy appeared publicly side by side, chatting affectionately, on their way to testify at the earl's divorce proceedings in Cape Town. Some caption writers tried to get round this unexpected alliance of former competitors for the earl's affections by branding them "women scorned", united in their desire for vengeance — but, from the smiles on their faces, this clearly would not do. No, there was more to it than that. Sisters, in Aretha Franklin's manner, in this phrase, were definitely doing it for themselves.

Only days later, Paula Yates was seen being comforted by Helena Christensen at Michael Hutchence's funeral. There was once a time, shortly after Paula had stolen Michael from Helena, when Helena would have spat in her face.

Now, instead of glowering at each other from opposite ends of the nave, these one-time love rivals were publicly giving each other strength in the face of adversity. And all of this within weeks of Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice) and Melanie Brown (Scary Spice), of the ubiquitous Spice Girls, getting together to sack their manager Simon Fuller. Up to that point, they had been said to be at such loggerheads that they refused to get into a car together. Now they stood shoulder to shoulder, lucidly justifying a significant business move on their combined parts.

Since their debut single *Wannabe* went to number one in July 1996, pop music critics and culture gurus had explained to us that the Spice Girls were commercially manufactured, were more or

less fraudulent as "girl power", and that they were talented only insofar as they had been moulded and directed by their super-talented Svengali. Suddenly after his departure, we find ourselves with five determined young women going it alone. They are rich, they are famous, they have any number of lucrative contracts and potential markets. The pop world is reeling at the prospect of such real girl power.

In fact, the media reaction to the Spice Girls after their £10 million payoff of "the brain" behind them tells us quite a lot. Not only are alliances of women in prominent positions getting noticed. This supposedly new phenomenon — the banding together of successful women in scarily powerful and effective ways — is causing consternation, if not alarm.

Ever since Fuller's departure, the press have found it necessary to insist that the Spice Girls' decision was dizzy and ill-advised. "They are now, we are told, bound to fail. The idea that we might be watching a determined group of tough-minded, hard-headed businesswomen at work is apparently unthinkable."

Might it be that the mere suggestion of girl gangs and girl power is too much for men to handle? The reliable, old-style antagonisms among women were so reassuring. In her Panorama interview, Diana, Princess of Wales, revealed to the world that she and Camilla Parker-Bowles had, from the outset of her marriage, been in a bitter struggle for the affections of the Prince of Wales — "there were three of us in this marriage so it was a bit crowded". The world was shocked, but the image was nevertheless a reassuringly familiar one. No one suggested that Diana and Camilla might round on the prince, reveal his darkest secrets, and together bring down the monarchy.

In the world of glamour and cash, beautiful women have always kept each other's company. Ex-supermodels Jerry Hall and Marie Helvin are best friends. Younger models like Kate Moss, Helena Christensen and Naomi Campbell tend to hang out together, party together and date together. The glossy magazines like to picture them decoratively giggling and embracing. But faced with a nasty break-up between one of them and their current beau, a divorce, or a custody battle, they are more likely to be seen clinging determinedly to the arm of their own current date, than rushing publicly to their friend's aid.

That's the way men like things to be. The traditional men's world relies on the fact that only men are bound together by ties of "brotherhood", backing each other up in crises, and forming themselves

into formidably powerful groups when threatened with public exposure or humiliation. When a Cecil Parkinson or a David Mellor is denounced by a single woman, bands of men rally round, secure in the knowledge that their friends would do the same for them. They close ranks with as much alacrity as politicians covering for one another at the merest whiff of a scandal.

In the United States at this very moment, President Clinton is pretty sure that the men's lobby will ultimately see off the accusations of sexual harassment against him. Yet if all the women Bill Clinton ever allegedly propositioned in his time as State Governor came forward together to corroborate each other's stories, things would turn out very differently. If ever

women began to co-operate with one another as a matter of course, just as men do, no philanthropist would be safe again.

We are taken aback when we open our newspaper and confront a picture of a wife and a mistress smiling conspiratorially into one another's eyes, bent on bringing down "their" man. But men feature on front pages, promising support for each other, every day of the week. From the football terraces to the Freemasons, men bond in informal support units, and learn to cover each other's backs, to respond when the need arises for meaningful glances and half-raised eyebrows, so that they can go on cheating on their wives, or bending the rules in the workplace. Most importantly of all, these informal support networks

enable men individually and in partnerships to reach the pinnacles of achievement in their chosen fields.

When my husband was training as an architect, he had to take a course in business and management given by architects who ran their own practices. "Learn golf," they were told. The most important associations are formed on the golf course, the most important contracts are secured in the golf club bar.

Many years ago, the American feminist Gloria Steinem announced that the secret of her rise to prominence and influence was her "girl gangs" — the informal networks of like-minded women who supported each other whenever the need arose. Most women respond to this idea with delight, most men with a

shudder of dismay at the thought of covens or cabals of women plotting men's downfall. In fact, Steinem's suggestion was eminently sensible and practical. Indeed, I am part of a "girl gang" network today.

We consult when we have serious problems to resolve, at work or at home; we test out ideas on these female friends whose intellect and opinions we respect; on rare occasions we even manage a trip to the gym or the movies together to unwind after a long, hard working week.

We know that it is these kinds of networks which will help women eventually to gain access to power and influence on an equal footing with men. As long as women are presented to one another as adversaries, to be pitted against one another as soon as they arrive at

any position of importance, their achievements will fall to match those of men of the same talent.

While we dissipate our energies with hostile reactions as soon as we are in competition with another woman, men are the only winners. As a businesswoman once remarked to me, "There's nothing men like more in the workplace than to watch women mud-wrestling."

The sight of Paula Yates and Helena Christensen bewildered the world press this week. Something more seemed to be at stake than a mere encounter between glitterati. Could it be that they remind us that where enormous sums of money and market shares are at stake, women collaborating effectively can wield an awesome force?



Letter from another age

We don't treat gay prisoners with electric shock therapy any more. But it's still two steps forward, one step back, says **Michael Cashman**

The letter came out of the blue. I thought it would be like all the others: either congratulating me on my stand for lesbian and gay rights or threatening hellfire and damnation. As I read it I was filled with anger and deep, deep humiliation. Here was a man in his late seventies sharing his life with me, baring his soul. And it was terrifying. He was writing to urge me on in my campaign. It was too late for him, he said, but others should not have to undergo what he had.

His crime was to be caught having sex with a younger man (not a child) and as a result he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

The Home Office papers released this week revealing the treatment of certain gay prisoners during the 1950s and onwards brought him back to mind. These papers have

been made public in the spirit of open government. For the first time, we have official recognition of the electric shock aversion therapy that gay males undertook as part of a "cure" for their "deviant behaviour".

But it didn't stop there: there was chemical castration with the use of oestrogen, physical separation and internal prison discrimination based on the "type" of homosexual you were deemed to be. Interestingly enough for the macho prison service, they seemed most threatened by the passive, "feminine" homosexual.

It was noted during these prison treatments that chemical castration was preferable to physical castration because you could change the body but not the mind!

What is alarming and revealing

is that these obscene treatments were being undertaken at a time when the Wolfenden committee was actually considering changes that would have a slightly beneficial effect on the lives of gay men. It becomes increasingly clear that the moral imperative for punishment was preferable to the human rights and civil liberties of individuals.

Looking back we can easily delude ourselves into believing that we have learnt something about the persecution of gay men (and lesbians) in our recent history. We have not. Aversion therapy is alive and well and kicking but its form is very different. Of course we no longer treat gay prisoners in this way — but often their treatment is far from equal with other prisoners; gay men are often pronounced paedophiles if they are

serving a term for an age-of-consent transgression and are left to the mercy of others.

Today's aversion therapy and castration that society pushes is of a much subtler form but is as viciously effective. Suicides among lesbian and gay teenagers are still on the increase, bullying in schools is still prevalent — and the presence of section 28 of the Local Government Act makes positive action on this subject almost impossible. Bullying by the tabloids, religious fundamentalists, broadsheet columnists and some political groups validate every queer-bashing that happens on our streets or in the boardroom and workplace.

It is widely believed that homosexuality is legal in the United Kingdom. It is not. It has been partially decriminalised to permit two

men having sex in private. Homosexual behaviour is still considered to be likely to cause a breach of the peace, or "immoral", or gross indecency. There is a whole raft of criminal laws that apply only to sex between men and these laws are still used today. Meanwhile, police officers regularly entrap gay men into sex and then arrest them. Homosexuals are still targeted and seen as an easy way to improve crime figures.

With a new Labour Government, some will argue that the fight for equality is all but over. They are wrong or stupid or both. Politicians never deliver anything unless there is pressure to effect change.

Already Jack Straw has magnificently changed the immigration rules so that all unmarried couples are treated equally when applying

Bad old days ... in the past some jailed gays had a horrific time

for settlement rights. Yet in the same weekend the Government announced that they planned to challenge Stonewall's case for gays in the military when it comes before a full hearing at the European Court of Human Rights.

Either the Government is frightened of the military — worrying in any democracy — or it wants to act not out of principle but because it is forced to do so by a "foreign" court. While one can applaud the decision to achieve an early free vote on an equal age of consent for gay males, we must not forget that they have acquiesced to this because they acknowledge that they will lose the case in the European Courts.

Only with a full review of the law as it affects lesbians and gay men will we cut out the cancer of homophobia. Only then will my letter-writer friend believe that the sacrifices that he had to make will have been worthwhile. A new Labour Government has a real opportunity to change this world for good. And once again history will have to judge if principle finally triumphed over political pragmatism.

Michael Cashman, actor and associate artist at the Birmingham Rep, is founder of the Stonewall group.

arts



Role reversal... Elizabeth Siddal painted her longing for her lover, Rossetti, in *Clerk Saunders* (left). After her death, Rossetti immortalised her in his *Beata Beatrix*

The stoned Rossettis

We ooh and aah over Pre-Raphaelite art. But the real wonder is that Rossetti and Co ever got anything on to canvas. **Rachel Barnes** looks at a movement fuelled by drink, drugs and lust

Anyone who thought that the Pre-Raphaelite escapism of the late 19th-century would never wash in the cynical nineties should have a word with the Tate box office. Fifty thousand people have already flocked to see *The Age of Rossetti*, Burne-Jones and Watts. And now, in Manchester, the women who inspired the movement's dreamy *femmes fatales* are also drawing the crowds to a show that reveals them not merely as muses but as serious artists in their own right.

Working at a time when the value of women artists was seriously doubted, they dreamed of establishing a female network of "art sisters". Dreaming was as far as it went, but their art has survived to be reassessed a century later.

The most famous of the "sisters" is Elizabeth Siddal, whose name will be forever linked with her lover and nemesis, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. They were, if you like, the Michael Hutchence and Paula Yates of their day. The poet Christina Rossetti described her brother's depen-

dence on Siddal in *An Artist's Studio*: "One face looks out from all his canvases." That same passionate obsession can be seen in Siddal's own work at Manchester's City Galleries, most poignantly so in the painting *Clerk Saunders*. The story from Scott's poem of love between social unequals mirrored Rossetti's affair with Rossetti, and the pale, ethereal woman reaching out to the ghost of her dead lover is clearly a self-portrait. This delicate watercolour echoes the style of her lover, but is also intensely individual.

Rossetti's work was also inseparable from his life. He was the original autobiographical artist, a forerunner of the "personality cult" solipsists of our century. He used his fraught relationships with Lizzie Siddal and later Jane Morris to realise his vision, as Picasso was later to use Marie Therese Walter, Dora Maar and Françoise Gilot.

In the 1850s, Lizzie's golden-haired, ethereal beauty dominated Rossetti's work. He met her when she was 17 and he was 21, and fell instantly in love with her, painting and drawing her obsessively. He

knew, as Picasso did, that his brand of creativity was often dependent on private passions. "He knew her hair to be the golden veil through which he beheld his dreams," Rossetti wrote in *Hand and Soul*, a poem about Lizzie.

Lizzie was also gifted and encouraged by the critic John Ruskin, she started to paint a series of haunting, introspective watercolours. But by the time Rossetti married her, he had resumed his philandering. He came back late one night with his friend, the poet Algernon Swinburne, to find Lizzie had taken an overdose of laudanum. In a heart-rending poem, *At Last*, written after her daughter was stillborn and not long before her suicide, you get some idea of her despair. "Tell him I died of my great love/And my heart was dying gay".

In a supreme theatrical gesture, Rossetti buried the only copy of his poems with Lizzie's body. It was a sacrifice he was unable to sustain, and he had the poems dug up seven years later. The poems were badly reviewed, in particular by a critic named Buchanan, who accused Rossetti of being of "the fleshy school of poetry". This added to Rossetti's feelings of guilt about Lizzie, and his mental stability deteriorated.

Rossetti's most famous painting, *Beata Beatrix* — a portrait of Lizzie, rich in symbols connected with his love for her — was painted while he was still full of grief and remorse after her suicide in 1862. It is the quintessence of Symbolism

in its depiction of the sensual *femme fatale*, forever desired, never to be possessed. He idealises and romanticises Lizzie in death, as he had been unable to do in the last, sad, declining years of her life. Like Thomas Hardy after his wife Emma's death, Rossetti tried to relive his romantic passion for her.

Rossetti's Italian father, Gabriel, had named his first son after the poet Dante. Rossetti showed distinct tendencies to see himself as Dante's reincarnation, and his love affair with Lizzie as a repetition of Dante's passion for Beatrice.

Despite Rossetti's religious confusion, Beata Beatrix was a kind of desperate prayer for Lizzie's happiness in an afterlife. He had never painted Lizzie in such a sensual way head thrown back in ecstasy or death. He also appears almost to have given her a halo, with the soft focus around her head. This intermingling of the sensual and the spiritual makes Beata Beatrix a precursor of the Symbolists' fascination with the saint and whore.

The sensual beauty of the raven-haired Jane Morris, wife of his great friend William Morris, had begun to fill Rossetti's heart and his paintings long before Lizzie's death. More cynical biographers suggest that Rossetti fell in love with Jane from the very start and encouraged his friend to marry her to keep her within their circle. There is now little doubt that Rossetti and Jane had a consummated and long-standing love affair, with Morris's sed-

uction. It seems likely that Jane only finished it when she became alarmed about Rossetti's increasing drug dependency.

Edward Burne-Jones — "one of the nicest fellows in dreamland," as Rossetti called him — was another caught in a mutually destructive affair with his muse, the Greek artist Maria Zambaco (also included in the Manchester show). This almost ended in a suicide pact.

Maybe it is this wild soap opera that has kept alive our fascination with these artists and the Decadent movement that followed on from them. "Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others," wrote Oscar Wilde in his braver glory days. "A new hedonism — that is what our century wants."

It is this blatant hedonism, this amorality, that gives the Pre-Raphaelites and the Decadents such appeal a century later? Arguably, Wilde and his ilk invented the idea of being a fascinating, shocking celeb. "Somehow or other I'll be famous; and, if not famous, notorious," he quipped. He was both, like many superstars who followed him.

This group's escape into sex, drink and drugs has reverberated through the decades. The cult of the self-destructive artist, so gifted yet flawed, begins with Rimbaud and Rossetti and continues with Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix and Kurt Cobain. But what were the

Pre-Raphaelites and the Decadents escaping? It's essential to see their work in the context of their materialistic, industrial age. Art often had little place in a competitive, class-ridden society where the work ethic ruled. If this sounds not unlike the Thatcher years, it may go some way to explaining the huge revival of interest in artists shunned for much of the intervening period.

But the 1890s — "the naughty nineties" — also saw the beginning of the cult of individuality: of artists having the courage and arrogance to rebel and to risk everything. Divine decadence, dandyism and *fin de siècle* ideas of art for art's sake all helped produce a lasting image. The genius of Wilde and the scandal of the "the love that dare not speak its name", the *femme fatale* actresses Sarah Bernhardt and Mrs Patrick Campbell, the wit and bohemianism of Whistler. Sexual fantasy, death and the world of dreams also play a part. Sigmund Freud's pioneering work influenced a new fascination with psychology and the workings of the subconscious mind.

Decadence, Symbolism and the Pre-Raphaelites were close relatives. But it was Decadence that was viewed with a certain frisson in England, almost as if they had been "caught" from the more risqué art world in Paris. But in truth, as the shows in London and Manchester demonstrate, many of its greatest exponents were British.

"Be always searching for new

sensations," writes Wilde in the preface to *Dorian Gray*. Wilde's undoubted desire to shock isn't the heart of the British Decadent. But the beginnings of a fascination with Symbolism also emerge in the seminal *Dorian Gray*. "All art is at once surface and symbol. Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril," Wilde wrote.

Perhaps the epitome of the nineties' dandy intellectual was Aubrey Beardsley the "Fra Angelico of Satanism", as Roger Fry called him. Beardsley's brilliant, hugely controversial illustrations for Wilde's play *Salome*, translated from French by Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, is a masterpiece of Decadence. Beardsley preferred to work at night when he was most aware, and his imagination then appears fevered, possibly because of tuberculosis, which claimed him at only 26. Despite the strangeness and variety of sexual fantasies expressed in his work, the degree to which he lived them out remains an enigma. Wilde was doubtful about him being active in any direction. "Never be discovered on a couch with Aubrey," he said. "It is not he slightest bit compromising."

In Beardsley's extraordinary *Salome*, the beautiful woman brings about the death of the holy man, John the Baptist, who has been imprisoned by Herod. To revenge him for rejecting her lustful advances, she orders his decapitation, then indulges her insatiable passion for him by caressing his bleeding head and kissing his dead mouth. "Ah thou wouldst not suffer me to kiss thy mouth, Jokanaan (John the Baptist). Well! Salome tells the dead man. "I will kiss it now, I will kiss it with my teeth as one bites a ripe fruit... Thine eyes were so terrible, so full of rage and scorn, are shut now."

The theme of the dangerous allure of women in *Salome* appealed greatly to the Decadents, with their fascination with the physical. This fatal combination is also at the heart of Rossetti's paintings of beautiful, mystic-erotic sirens, which dominate his later work.

Feminists have suggested that these images of women symbolise the late 19th-century male fear of woman's emancipation. I doubt it. Although the biographical approach to art history is unfashionable, there are artists — and Rossetti is one of them — with whom it would be perverse to avoid it. He was first and foremost painting either Lizzie or Jane and his relationship with them, rather than anything symbolising a wider social significance.

Rossetti's decline into drug addiction, and a form of paranoia from which his father had also suffered, was both a personal tragedy and a symptom of the slide into self-destruction which was to become such a feature of the late 19th-century. Jones spoke of the last "ghostly evenings" he spent with him — how Rossetti seemed to have "given it all up and try to no more".

Thirteen years later, Wilde was convicted of "gross indecency". The scandal of his trial and subsequent conviction for sodomy in 1895 was a turning point. It was both a public recognition and a condemnation of homosexuality (the word was first coined at this time) and of decadence itself. Wilde had underestimated the hypocrisy and narrow-mindedness of Victorian society, and he paid the price.

But what of our own *fin de siècle* years? It is hard to ignore echoes of the same introspection, and desire to shock, that motivated some of the artists of the 1890s. The disturbing, even repellent, work of the Chapman brothers or Damien Hirst, currently celebrated at the Royal Academy's Sensation show, might not have been what Burne-Jones had in mind when he wrote of art as "a beautiful, romantic dream". But the underlying themes of eroticism, morbid fantasy and mortality are there. Have we changed so very much?

The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Watts is at the Tate, London SW1, till January 4. *Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists* is at the Manchester City Art Galleries till February 22. Rachel Barnes's book *The Pre-Raphaelites and Their World* will be published by Tate Publications next month.

The Observer Hodge Exhibition 1997



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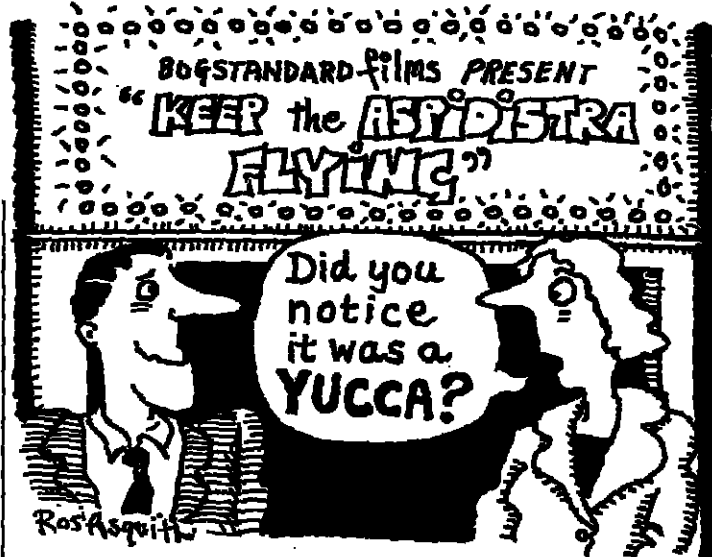
An undertaker's van bearing the logo Blair Brothers is the first of several notable vintage cars to turn up on the streets of London in *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying*. At least, we are told it is London, although the thirties metropolis evoked in the film would have been unrecognisable to Gordon Comstock, the moth-eaten anti-hero of Orwell's original novel. "Some of us walk better streets than others," he remarks.

It is true that most tourists would recognise Primrose Hill, Shepherd's Market and Primrose Hill from the film. But these heritage highlights are combined with an evocation of thirties Lambeth that owes everything to Dickens and nothing to the conditions of working-class life that Orwell describes in his writing.

The Blair Brothers van may be

taking our hero and heroine away from drab old Orwellian socialism towards a bright new dawn of north London respectability, but the film evokes a sense of street-life that is straight out of Mary Poppins. You expect the dreaded Dick Van Dyke to pop down the chimney at any moment and begin composing rhymes for the aspiring poet Comstock.

The film was supported by the Arts Council and the National Lottery to the order of more than a million pounds. Like other new-Brit offerings shown at the London Film Festival earlier this month, it stems from a new buoyancy about movie-making in the capital. Ten years ago, Alan Plater's script would probably have found its home on the BBC as a TV film. Yet the design and look of it on the small screen might have had far greater precision and bite. For it would have been served by the kind of expertise that brought you *Pennies From Heaven*.



Compare the latter's evocation of the thirties to that of *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying*. Throughout the film there is not a single reference to a popular song of the day or even a radio broadcast. The advertising agency — a source of decay and corruption in the novel — is presented as a spanking art deco paradise. In the book, the editor Ravelston lunches in small Soho

restaurants; here he seems to be living at the Ritz.

The director, Robert Bierman, would argue that he was making a movie, not a television play. Movies, of course, require proper musical scores and one of those instantly forgettable ballads to go over the end credits. The book's central love story has to be brought up to date to appeal to the

punters. Yet through the transformation, the charm and poignancy of a relationship set in a real time and place are lost.

As we move closer towards a movie-based culture in this country, it is worth remembering that many of the craftsmen and women who are likely to service it were trained at the BBC. In the areas of design and costume, that training ground is now at risk. The continuity of work that was once guaranteed to the most talented designers at the BBC has now gone. Everyone is a gun for hire. The BBC's costume store is now White City's equivalent of Angels and Bermans, the party dress hire shop.

Yet getting period drama right involves much more than simply hiring or buying the costumes. The skill with which a designer such as Eileen Dill can create the right period detail for the camera — often surprisingly cheaply — the product of years of the right kind of experience. We still see it on the small screen, of course. Jones and Casan in *Tom and Jerry* are in the Blair Brothers van bound for the millennium, let's hope that true period dramas — and the collective memory and skill they represent — are not things of the past.

Racing

Ron Cox predicts Hennessy Gold Cup success for the man the bookmakers fear

Time for another McManus gamble

BOOKMAKERS beware. J.P. McManus, the big-bitting Irish punter, has his sights set on winning today's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury with Time For A Run.

The horse who netted McManus the Coral Cup Hurdle at the 1994 Cheltenham Festival under an inspired ride from Charlie Swan is back.

Although Time For A Run failed to provide his owner with another big pay-day at last season's Festival, when he was beaten a neck in the Kim Muir Chase, today's softer ground will be much more to his liking.

More importantly, Swan is back in the saddle. Philip Fenton, who rode Time For A Run in the Kim Muir, is a tip-top amateur but there is no doubt the 10-year-old has produced his best form with professional handling.

Time For A Run needs to be watched with and he had Norman Williamson aboard when running out the impressive 10 lengths winner of a valuable handicap chase at Leopardstown in January.

Judged on that form Time For A Run has a great chance off 10st. Edward O'Grady, his trainer, gave the gelding a warm-up over two miles and three furlongs at Naas three weeks ago and Time For A Run shaped well to finish fourth. He should be spot on today.

Lightly-weighted horses have dominated the Hennessy since Burrough Hill led the field in 1984. With the ground placing even more of an emphasis on stamina, things look tough for Barton Bank, running in his first Hennessy at the age of 11, and



Baywatch... Callisee Bay (left) jumps the last alongside Challenger du Lac before winning at Newbury yesterday

Coomer Hill, who won carrying 10st last year and is now running off an 18lb higher mark.

Sunny Bay jumped into Hennessy favouritism with a powerful display at Haydock, where he made all to beat General Wolfe by 11 lengths and had Eudipe (below par in blinkers) well back in fourth.

This could come too soon for a horse who has not stood a lot of racing, but if he reproduces his Haydock form Sunny Bay will be hard to beat.

Eudipe could put up a much-improved display without the blinkers. He is closely handicapped with Diddiebah on last season's Sun Alliance running, but it remains to be

seen what that novice form is worth.

Belmont King, the Scottish National winner, comes well into the reckoning with the Paul Nicholls stable in superb form and the ground in his favour.

He can confirm last season's Chepstow placings with Trying Again despite a big

turn-around in the weights, but may not manage the concession of 18lb to Time For A Run (2.25).

On the day Sir Peter O'Sullivan calls the horses for the final time it should be noted that Sounds Fyne carries his colours in the Fulke Walwyn Master Oddy (2.45) may initiate a double for the champion jockey.

Sounds Fyne in decent shape, but the whisper here is for Storm Damage (2.55), from the Nicholls yard.

Tony McCoy can take the Peter O'Sullivan Novice Hurdle on Cherrymore (3.25) and the well-handicapped Cherrymore (3.25) may initiate a double for the champion jockey.

Newbury Jackpot card

RON COX	TOP FORM
12.45 1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

12.45 SOLAS HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.6, 7.6 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.15 EQUITY FINANCIAL FERRY FIELDS HURDLE	2m 11.0yds E1, 1.940 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.50 MITSUBISHI LONG DISTANCE HURDLE	3m 11.0yds E1, 1.400 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.25 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.0yds E1, 2.49 (14 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.55 FRANK WILLYN CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (7 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

3.25 PETER O'SULLIVAN NOVICE HURDLE	2m 11.0yds E1, 2.40 (15 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.10 NORTHGATE TRUCK RENTAL NOVICE HURDLE	3m 2m E1, 2.253 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.45 NORTH EAST AUTO TRADER HANDICAP CHASE	3m 2m E1, 4.24 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.40 VICTOR NOVICE HURDLE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

3.10 MAKERFIELD NOVICE CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

3.45 HAYDOCK GOLD CUP HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER	2m 41.5, 8.42 (11 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.40 LADROCK PHREPPHON 0000 524 524 HANDICAP CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.10 TIM MOLLOY MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE	3m 2m 41.5, 8.42 (7 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

Newcastle with TV form guide

RON COX	TOP FORM
12.10 1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15	1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15 3.40
1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15 3.40	1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15 3.40
1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15 3.40	1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15 3.40
1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15 3.40	1.10 1.40 2.15 2.45 3.15 3.40

12.10 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY JUVENILE HURDLE 3YO	2m 2m 41.5, 8.42 (15 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

12.40 STANLEY RACING NOVICE CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.10 NORTHGATE TRUCK RENTAL NOVICE HURDLE	3m 2m E1, 2.253 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.45 NORTH EAST AUTO TRADER HANDICAP CHASE	3m 2m E1, 4.24 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.40 VICTOR NOVICE HURDLE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

3.10 MAKERFIELD NOVICE CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (8 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

3.45 HAYDOCK GOLD CUP HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER	2m 41.5, 8.42 (11 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.40 LADROCK PHREPPHON 0000 524 524 HANDICAP CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.10 TIM MOLLOY MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE	3m 2m 41.5, 8.42 (7 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

1.40 LADROCK PHREPPHON 0000 524 524 HANDICAP CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.10 TIM MOLLOY MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE	3m 2m 41.5, 8.42 (7 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
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1.40 LADROCK PHREPPHON 0000 524 524 HANDICAP CHASE	2m 41.5, 8.42 (5 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

2.10 TIM MOLLOY MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE	3m 2m 41.5, 8.42 (7 declared)
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40
1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40	1.50 2.25 2.50 3.15 3.40

Rugby Union



Still finding his range... Mike Catt is not the first-choice kicker for his club Bath but has been given the job by his adopted country

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Catt confident in his conversion

Robert Armstrong says critics should recognise the attacking qualities of the much-maligned England kicker and fly-half

IT IS surely time Mike Catt's critics stopped knocking seven bells out of him, chastising him for what he cannot do instead offering up a small prayer for what he can do extremely well.

Sure, the Bath and England fly-half can be disappointing, frustrating, even infuriating, yet on his day he can also be the playmaker of every schoolboy's dreams, ping-ponging, making the kind of mid-field break that has genuine cut-

ting edge and at times scoring imperiously at the post.

Clive Woodward, the only England coach in living memory to do a jig of celebration when his side score a try, has yet to savour his first Test victory, yet he keeps picking Catt and the chances are the No. 10 will add another cap to his tally in next week's meeting with the All Blacks. Catt is Woodward's natural dogpanger, a highly unpredictable talent who enjoys risk-taking and pooh-poos safe percentage football.

"I never know what I am going to do next, irrespective of whether it is the kicking game or the running game," admitted Catt candidly. "I am very unpredictable whether I am on the halfway line or on my own 22. I know defenders try to mark me out of the game but I don't play to a set plan and that makes it difficult for them. I enjoy getting involved in the physical side, maybe too much sometimes, but that's the way I am made."

"The No. 10 area is one the opposition want to break down because they think it is a weak area. But defence is one of the strongest aspects of my game and in that area Phil de Glanville and myself work particularly well together. Probably defence helps get me selected."

"Obviously I think I have got something special. Maybe it is enthusiasm, my love for the game of rugby. Clive Woodward has the same passion for the game — you saw him jumping up and down on the touchline last Saturday. I don't have that feeling at the top because it will filter down to the players."

Clearly Catt will face stiff competition for his place when Alex King, the gifted Wales player who had to withdraw from the recent Australia game, recovers from his knee operation.

However, the 23-year-old King still has everything to prove at Test level whereas the 26-year-old Catt, who has 26th cap against South Africa, his country of origin. Apart from Jason Leonard, the No. 10 is the most experienced international in today's England line-up.

"The Springboks are very physical, very aggressive and they are still the world champions," Catt pointed out. "Still, the atmosphere in the England squad is as good as it was with the Lions. We have young, enthusiastic players who have come on well in the last two Tests. They add a bit of spice and make things

more enjoyable. Generally I think things went well for me in the Tests. I know I took the right options though I didn't always execute them properly. This season if somebody wants to do something new everyone else in the England squad reacts to it. People have a positive mentality which has gone down tremendously well in training sessions."

Those supporters who watch Bath week-in, week-out know that Catt is frequently the catalyst of those high-scoring wins their Premiership rivals tend to take for granted. Since Stuart Barnes retired in 1995 Catt has steadily grown into the No. 10 shirt, seeing off the more cerebral challenge of Richard Butler and resisting tentative attempts to pair him permanently with de Glanville or Jeremy Guscott in the centre.

Goal-kicking, as England found to their cost last week, is the most obvious skill in which Catt lacks match practice. Bath continue to rely on Jon Callard to turn penalties into points, which puts the ever-willing Catt in the difficult position of kicking for his country without optimum preparation. Little wonder he enlisted the help of the kicking guru Dave Alrod.

"I have always believed I have a big job to do at No. 10 and, if I miss the kicks at goal, I must not let that affect the rest of my game — thank God, it didn't last Saturday. It's a bonus to be able to switch off and not worry about errors. Some people only have to miss a couple of kicks and their whole game goes to pieces. I enjoyed the New Zealand game immensely."

"I think instinct pulls me through a lot of games — when space opens up in front of me I pick that up very quickly. I believe I have been taking the right options but sometimes my kicking out of hand has not been done correctly. I have also got a bit too involved in the mechanics of kicking and my natural flow has not been there as it was a few weeks ago. Goal-kicking went well at training but at Old Trafford everything tightened up."

"It was the first time I really messed up a big international but I don't have a long-term problem about goal-kicking. I know I can do it. Last season I got the balance right between kicking and

running and I was pleased with my performance in the Wales game."

It is hardly surprising that England at regular intervals send out an SOS for Catt, having flirted not very convincingly with Paul Grayson, Mark Maple and King as well as briefly recalling Rob Andrew to sit on the bench.

Catt, as he points out, is a committed apostle of the modern game which puts great pressure on the fly-half to penetrate tightly organised defences and exploit every gap with his speed of foot or hand.

"The selectors keep coming back to me because ultimately they want a No. 10 who plays the game all in hand," said Catt. "My attitude has always been to correct an error immediately whenever I do something wrong. The game doesn't wait for you and you should not wait for the game."

Phil Larder's appointment as England's full-time coaching adviser was yesterday confirmed by the Rugby Football Union. Larder, 52, the Rugby League's first director of coaching, will start his new job on Monday.

Wales v New Zealand

A collision within a mis-match

Paul Rees on Lomu v Gibbs, irresistible force meeting immovable object

WALES have not beaten New Zealand for 44 long years but an optimism has inspired a 78,000 sell-out crowd at Wembley today. What was seen as a walkover two weeks ago is being portrayed as a Test in the true sense of the word.

The match pitches Jonah Lomu, the player regarded as the hardest man to tackle in rugby, against Scott Gibbs, the player whose exploits with the Lions in South Africa confirmed him as the world's best back division in the world when they went to New Zealand in 1995 — Gareth Edwards, Barry John, JPR Williams, Gerald Davies, Maurice Richards, Stuart Watkins and Keith Jarrett. The All Blacks dominated at forward and Wales did not score.

That is the problem facing the Wales coach Kevin Bowring tomorrow. His main hope lies in no question that he takes some stopping. We must not get carried away by his presence, in Christian Cullen, Jeff Wilson and Frank Bunce, New Zealand have the players to exploit any holes. I am delighted that Lomu is playing because he is the biggest name in rugby and he generates interest.

"I have never seen Lomu in the flesh," said Gibbs, "but there is no question that he takes some stopping. We must not get carried away by his presence, in Christian Cullen, Jeff Wilson and Frank Bunce, New Zealand have the players to exploit any holes. I am delighted that Lomu is playing because he is the biggest name in rugby and he generates interest."

"People talk about what I did in South Africa but Lomu has a four-store advantage over me and, if he is running flat out, there is not much you can do except try to slow him and wait for reinforcements."

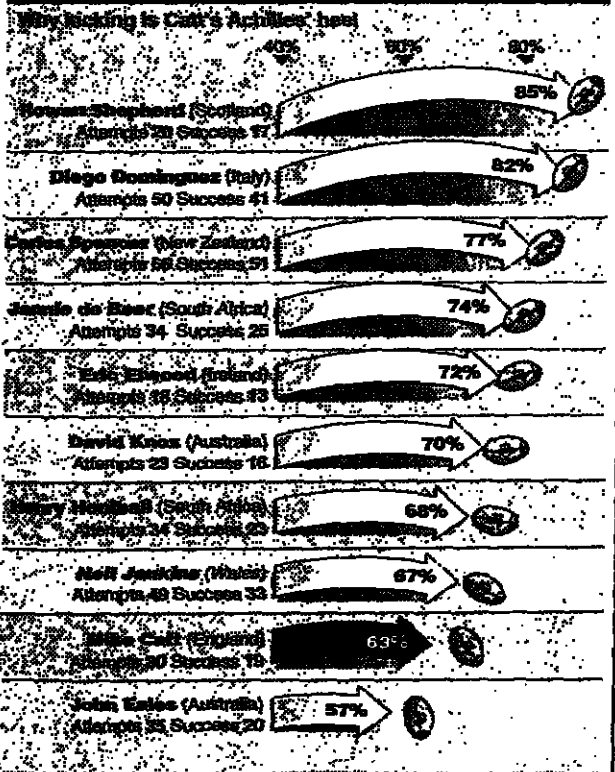
Lomu watched the second, decisive Test in South Africa live on television at his New Zealand home last summer and felt the match was won by a Welshman — not Neil Jenkins, who kicked five penalties, but Gibbs. "He put in the most awesome display of tackling I have ever seen," said Lomu. "You have to respect any side with Gibbs in it. I could not guarantee running through him. I am sorry that Iuan Evans is not playing because, like Gibbs, he is one of the best players in the world."

On paper it looks a formality. Wales have lost their last seven internationals against New Zealand by huge margins, with the average score standing at 25-7. They fashioned a more two tries in those matches and conceded 37. With only two victories in their last three Five Nations campaigns and with a pack which lacks the durability of England's, it looks all black for Wales.

Yet they have spent the past week talking themselves up, saying they have identified weaknesses in New Zealand's game. Even the All Blacks coach John Hart has said he believes Wales will give his side their toughest test this year because of their creative ability behind, allied with their defensive organisation in midfield.

Wales do not have the power to take on New Zealand in the manner of England last week, where the home side's tactical approach mirrored that of the Lions in South Africa. Only four or five forwards were committed to rucks and mauls, the others fanning out to present a

Order of the boot



Snooker

Hendry takes an early lead as Stevens battles nerves

Clive Everton in Preston

STEPHEN HENDRY, trying to stretch the 22-match winning streak at the Guild Hall which has embraced three of his five Liverpool Victoria UK titles, took a commanding 6-2 interval lead over Matthew Stevens in a best-of-17-frame semi-final here yesterday.

The afternoon's chief subplot was Hendry's pursuit of his 400th tournament century — 144 more than Steve Davis, his nearest rival in this category.

He made 85 in the opening frame but failed to develop the penultimate red to a pottable position. In the second he reached 81 before missing the penultimate red. Most frustratingly, he made 96 in the fifth, potting the last red but leaving the cue-ball quiddistant between pink and black, which were on their spots. The tricky pink failed to a bank pocket.

Hendry also had runs of 68 and 63 in reaching 5-0. A scrappy black ball made it 6-0

before Stevens showed his quality with frame-winning breaks of 83 and 97 to reduce this to 6-2.

Having beaten two top-eight players, Mark Williams and John Parrott, Stevens, 20, lost 6-5 to John Higgins in last month's semi-finals of the Grand Prix at Bournemouth. He beat Williams again here and made some impressive breaks.

In last year's Grand Prix he beat Hendry 5-1 but was palpably nervous in the early frames of the biggest match of his career yesterday and simply made too many mistakes.

Away from the table a clash has developed between Rex Williams, who was elected chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association last April, and its chief executive Jim McKenzie, appointed in July.

Williams has been trying to persuade fellow board members that McKenzie, who has made a fine initial impression in snooker, should be dismissed from the post. A board meeting will be held on Monday.

Sport in brief

Golf

Colin Montgomerie's record fifth successive Order of Merit victory has helped him win the European Tour's Johnnie Walker Golfer of the Year award for the third year in a row.

Sailing

EF Education and Brunel Sureshy, the last two boats on the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race, finished early yesterday morning, writes Bob Fisher in Fremantle. Christine Gullion, skipper of the all-woman crew of EF Education, said the leg had been easier than expected.

Squash

Peter Nicol, the world No. 2 from Scotland who defends the title at the tour's third richest tournament, the Mahindra International in Bombay next week, has moved to within 100 ranking points of Jansher Khan after reaching the Qatar final this week, writes Richard Jago.

Cricket

England's Texaco Trophy international against South Africa at The Oval on May 21 has sold out within 48 hours.

Rugby League

Non-Super clubs aid strugglers

Mike Hord

KEIGHLEY and Workington, who face expulsion from the League next week because of insolvency, were yesterday offered support by other non-Super League clubs.

When the Rugby Football League council meets in Salford on Wednesday members will be asked to exclude these two clubs from next season's fixtures because they have failed to come up with adequate business rescue plans.

Officials of both clubs, however, won strong support yesterday when they spoke at a meeting of the First and Second Division Clubs Association in Dewsbury, which passed a resolution that "no club in administration or with a Corporate Voluntary Agreement should be eliminated from the Rugby Football League competitions".

The RFL's proposal can now go through only if four of the 19 association clubs defy this resolution and vote with the 12 Super League members.

Motor Racing

Strict Belgian tobacco ban threatens grand prix future

Mike Hord

BELGIUM's parliament yesterday approved a law banning all tobacco advertising and sponsorship from January 1, 1999. Their decision not to grant Formula One special status, as Britain has done, means the Belgian Grand Prix could be the first to be cancelled because of a country's policy on tobacco advertising.

Formula One's governing body, the FIA, has consistently warned that any such ban may be to allow cars to race in their tobacco colours without any direct identification. This already occurs at the French Grand Prix, where an advertising ban has been in place since 1993, as well as at the British and German races under a voluntary agreement.

The Formula One paddock will be particularly unhappy to lose the Belgian event because it is held at Spa-Francorchamps, widely regarded as the most exciting circuit on the grand prix calendar.

Maes. "The FIA are pushed by the Formula One teams which are pushed by their sponsors, the cigarette producers."

The Belgian ban applies to billboards, adverts in the press, supermarkets and pubs, plus sponsorship of sport, culture and music. Maes said it was too early to say whether legal action could be taken but, according to Paul Broeckx, a spokesman for the Belgian tobacco industry: "It's clear there are no small escape holes as some people seem to think."

However, one way round the ban may be to allow cars to race in their tobacco colours without any direct identification. This already occurs at the French Grand Prix, where an advertising ban has been in place since 1993, as well as at the British and German races under a voluntary agreement.

The Formula One paddock will be particularly unhappy to lose the Belgian event because it is held at Spa-Francorchamps, widely regarded as the most exciting circuit on the grand prix calendar.

Wembley teams

Wales substitutes	New Zealand substitutes	Referee
David (Cardiff)	McLeod (Wellington)	W. Erickson (Australia)
A. Thomas (Swansea)	Preston (Wellington)	
P. John (Pontypridd)	Blovers (Auckland)	
S. Williams (Cardiff)	Rachmann (Auckland)	Wembley, 3pm
S. John (Cardiff)	Allen (Manawatu)	Live on BBC 1
Humphreys (Cardiff)	Fitzpatrick (Auckland)	



US suffer as Sampras limps out

break serve for a 2-0 lead and rolled through the second set in 15 minutes. There were two breaks of serve each early in the third but, arguably, the key moment came in the sixth game when Bjorkman was one point away from going 4-2 down. He slipped on the fast indoor carpet near the net but recovered to win the point. "That was a big turn-around," he admitted. "When I got the break back, I had to feel that I was in the match again."

Bjorkman broke Chang's service again for the decisive 5-3 lead when the American hit a forehand wide. The Swede then served out for the set, with two successive aces for good measure.

Lazaridis is quick fix

who is three weeks into his job of coaching Iran to the finals, this week met the player who has been tipped to lift his side to victory today.

Suspended for the Tehran match, Kareem Bagheri arrived in Melbourne on Thursday after 40 hours of travel from Vienna where he was playing for the Bundesliga club Arminia Bielefeld.

Asked how he felt about picking a player whom he has never seen, Vierra said: "Seventy million people tell me I must play him - I am not going to be the one to say no."

Vierra, the essence of a hands-off coach, is quietly confident that Bagheri, rated by Venables as Iran's best player, and the target number nine, will lead his team to canpel the Australian battlers. The sell-out crowd of 96,000 will politely tail him otherwise it falls foul.

Arsalan Borzjeh, Striker, Moscow
Tahsin Aghajani, Defender, Zagreb
Vidmar, Vukovar, Kempten
Karamali, Forward, Klagenfurt
Payvand, Seavard, Salzburg
Saeidi, Midfielder, Austria
Ali, Midfielder, Austria

ALAN MILLER has a point to prove when he returns between the posts today for Middlesbrough against West Bromwich Albion. Bryan Robson sold the Londoner to Albion for a bargain £100,000 in 1982, a season when he has kept 14 clean sheets in 32 games.

He was a key member of the side who won the First Division title in 1985 but lost his place after promotion to the top flight.

His move to Albion, first on loan and then permanently, has been hailed as a master-stroke by Ray Harford.

The First Division leaders Nottingham Forest are in a pinch for a striker. John Johnson makes his home debut in Bryan Hamilton's first game as coach. Chris Bart-Williams hopes his side will be the first to suggest that Forest can retain the side who drew at Middlesbrough in midweek.

Manchester City's manager Frank Clark yesterday said the players were aware of a rumour that the chairman Francis Lee was

Ice Hockey
SUPERLEAGUE: Bealingslake 3, Brack-
nert 1.
NHL: Ottawa 3, Washington 1; St Louis 2,
Los Angeles 2; Calgary 2, Chicago 2;
Phoenix 1, Dallas 4.

Paul Gascoigne returns to the Rangers team today for just long enough to bid the fans farewell for a month, until Patrick McGovern, Alan Hansen and Gary McAllister are expected to be back. Gascoigne, who was named the Scottish Football Association's disciplinary points limit by being ordered off against Celtic 10 days ago, begins a month's recuperation at his home in Glasgow, until the next match Old Firm game, at Celtic Park on January 2.

Gascoigne and Rangers, however, have no say in the weather close to the rate in the middle of the month. If any of the games he is scheduled to miss were to be postponed, he would not be available to the club.

Rangers, who have Brian Laudrup back from injury and Gordon Currie and Alvin Kilmartin back from suspension, are expected to close on the leaders Hearts by taking care of St Johnstone at home this afternoon. Hearts, four points ahead, would remain at the top. The "Yin-Yang" derby, which pairs two of most belligerent United at Tynecastle, are idle because of tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final.

■ THE Tynecastle Clashes delivered with

cepted the below-par Troy Aikman three times and returned a fumble for a touchdown to head the five-time defending NFC East champions 27-14. The Cowboys are now in danger of missing the American football play-offs for the first time in seven seasons.

prepared for the short trip to Stockport, whose manager Gary Megson is a former City player.

"City are a huge club with huge support but I've no real interest in them now," said Megson. "This is a massive game for Stockport. The whole town is talking about it."

The Wolves midfielder Steve Osborn has recovered from a major knee injury and is expected to play a place against the visiting QPR, his former club.

Buddersfield's top scorer Marcus Stewart returns after hamstring trouble to form a £2 million partnership

McAlpine Stadium with a new name, Paul Dalglish, in the squad. Sounds familiar? Yes, he's Kenny's son.

Familiar face of Mr Nobody takes the lead

Westwood had said before the tournament that he hoped to win, a view he confirmed yesterday, adding: "Obviously Greg is still around. You can't take the world No. 1 too lightly when he's only one behind you."

When he turned professional, Westwood was in awe of Norman. This year, though, they played two rounds of the Open at Royal Troon together and Westwood's opening drive at the par-four 1st found the green. Did Norman attempt

is little chance of that. The greens are so fast," he said, "that everything is magnified. If you make the pace wrong, it can hurt you."

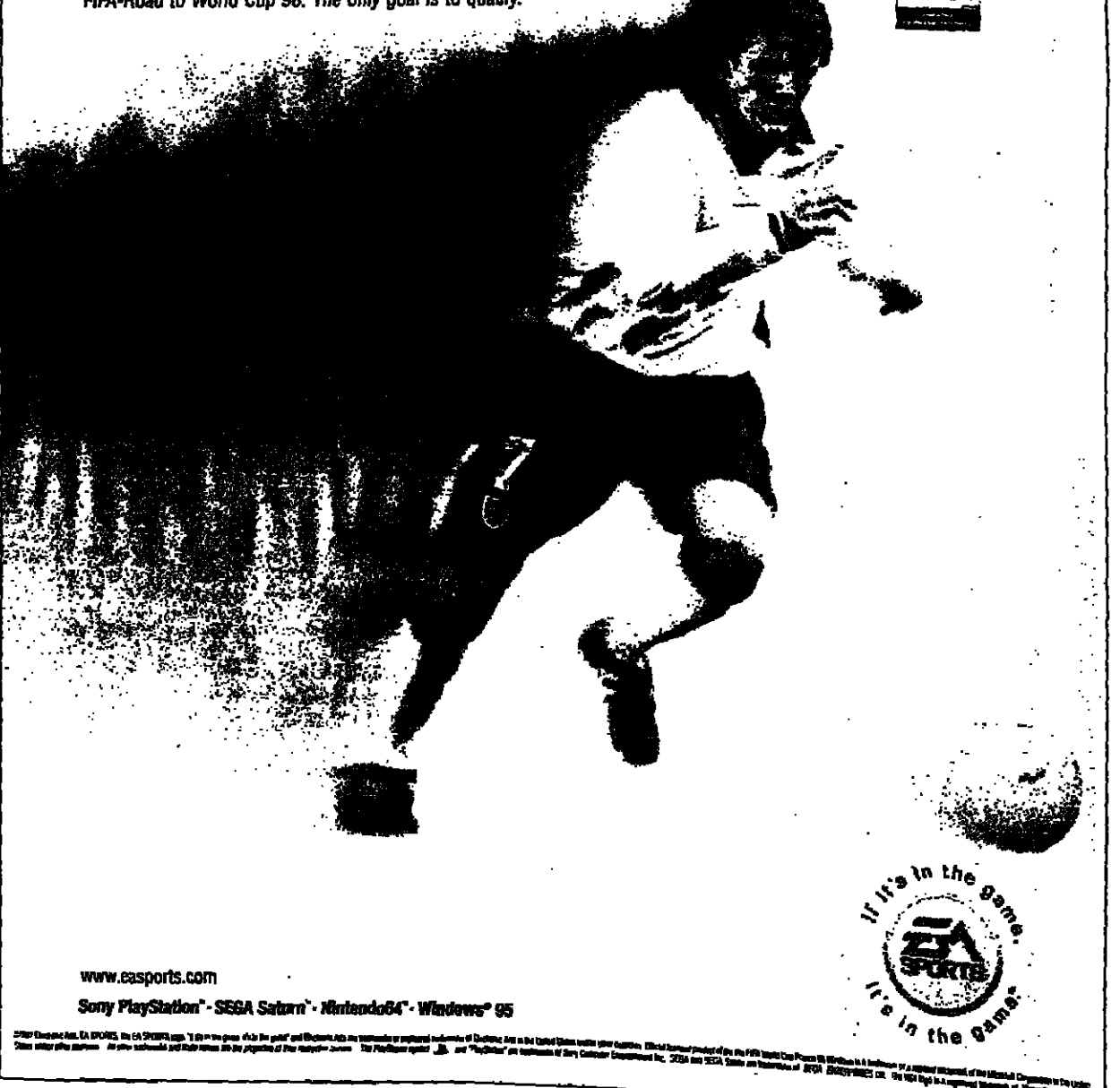
So, too, can the honesty so essential to the playing of the game. On the par-four 5th Clarke, having hit a six-iron second to seven feet, had a birdie putt—at least until his ball moved after he had addressed it. No one else saw it happen, but Clarke called the penalty and the fates then allowed him to hole what had become a par putt.

Beyond commitment. Beyond skill. Beyond ruptured
sinew and torn tendon. Beyond rain sharper than
scalpels and hearts of oak, snapped and splintered.
Beyond half time keel-haulings and crushed egos.

Beyond belief

There is France.

FIFA Road to World Cup 98. The only goal is to qualify





Danger man
Mike Catt
throws caution
to the wind
21



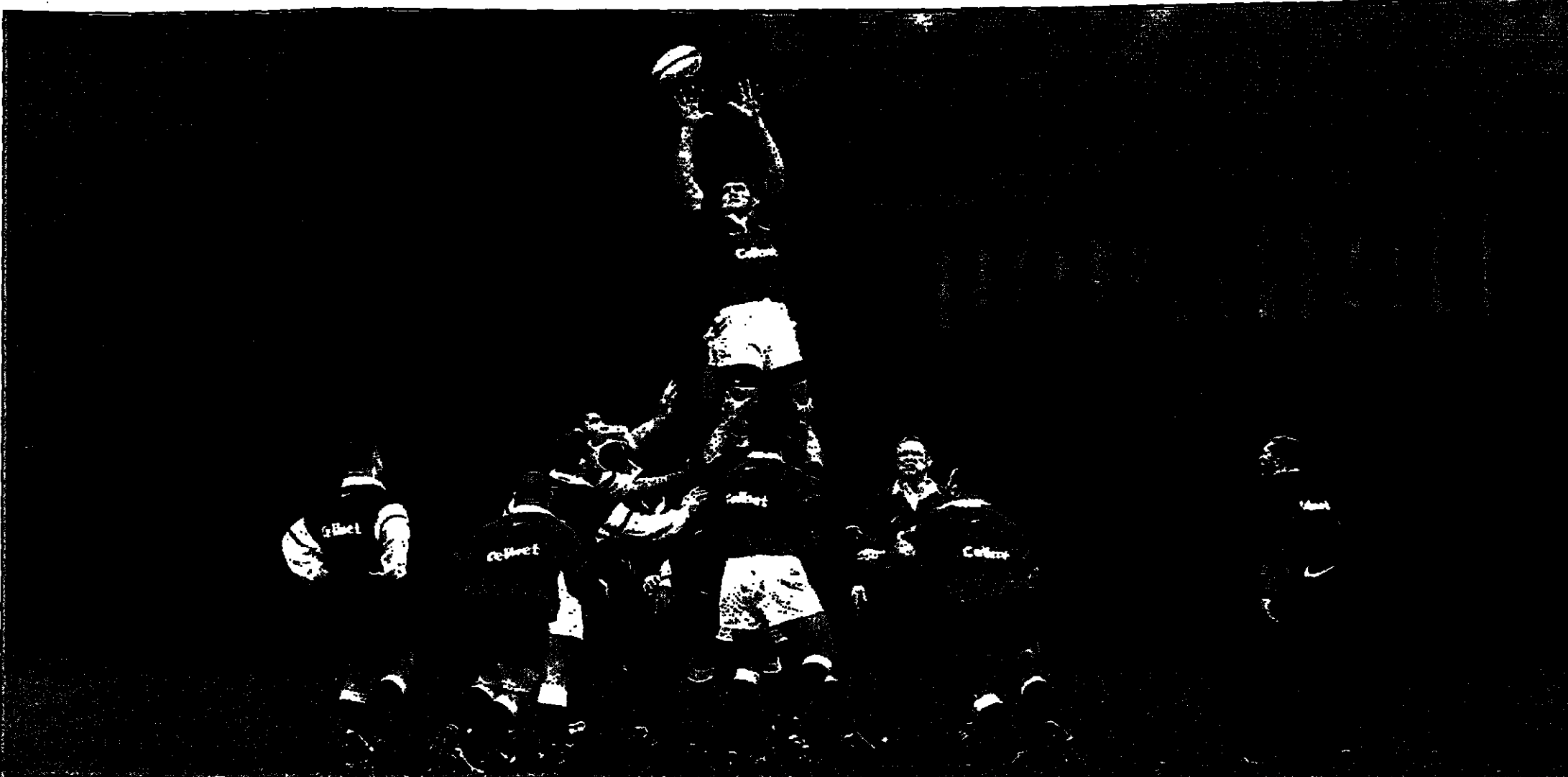
Book worm
David Platt
prepares for life
in a track suit
23

The Guardian

Sport

www.football.guardian.co.uk

South Africa the latest challenge



Tower of strength... Garath Archer and his England colleagues practise their line-out drills at Roehampton in preparation for today's meeting with the world champions

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM JENKINS

Brittle battles for Sky cash

Robert Kitson

CLIFF BRITTLE, chairman of the Rugby Football Union's management board, was fighting Sky Television last night, despite official denials that the RFU was prepared to block live satellite coverage of next weekend's Test between England and New Zealand.

Sky has exclusive live rights to England's home internationals and the RFU has a "minimum commitment" to stage two Tests against either South Africa, Australia or New Zealand before Christmas. This season there are four such games and Brittle wants additional cash.

In a statement he revealed that "a document which may have a bearing upon the construction and effect of some of the payment terms has come to the RFU's attention". The document cannot be traced in the RFU files and its existence, according to Brittle, was not known to members of the executive committee when the deal with Sky was signed in July.

He has called for immediate talks but Sky has set a precondition requiring the RFU to acknowledge the validity of the relevant document. This was "not acceptable" to Brittle but Twickenham sources insist he is not about to pull the plug.

"The game very much looks as though it will go ahead and be televised by Sky," said a spokesman. "It's been blown out of all proportion. It's really just a new administration coming on board, one or two things not stacking up and the RFU wanting to talk about it."

Publicly at least Sky has not risen to the bait, highlighting the final paragraph of Brittle's statement which claims the RFU "wishes to maintain a good relationship with its broadcast partner".

A spokesman said: "Following the reports in today's newspapers we are delighted the RFU has cleared any doubts that may have been raised about live coverage of any forthcoming internationals by Sky Sports."

Twickenham teams

England	South Africa	Referee
1. G. Archer (Durham)	1. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	1. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
2. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	2. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	2. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
3. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	3. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	3. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
4. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	4. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	4. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
5. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	5. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	5. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
6. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	6. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	6. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
7. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	7. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	7. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
8. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	8. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	8. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
9. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	9. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	9. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
10. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	10. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	10. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
11. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	11. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	11. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
12. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	12. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	12. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
13. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	13. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	13. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
14. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	14. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	14. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
15. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	15. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	15. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
16. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	16. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	16. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
17. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	17. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	17. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
18. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	18. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	18. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
19. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	19. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	19. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
20. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	20. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	20. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
21. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	21. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	21. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
22. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	22. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	22. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
23. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	23. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	23. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
24. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	24. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	24. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)
25. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	25. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)	25. J. B. van der Merwe (Free State)

England expand horizons

Robert Armstrong looks for signs of the promised style from Clive Woodward's side

THE long shadow of the Lions' summer spectacular in South Africa will fall on today's eagerly awaited Twickenham match between the new-age England and the born-again Springboks.

Much as Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, would prefer to put the Lions' triumph behind him, comparisons will be drawn between the best of British and England's finest as they set about reversing South Africa's emphatic win here two years ago.

It is worth remembering that the Lions clinched the Test series in Durban by the skin of their teeth, of whom four — John Bentley, Matt Dawson, Richard Hill and Dallaglio — are in the England team. Jason Leonard, Neil Back and Mike Catt also figured in the Test series, while Martin Johnson, a magnificent Lions captain, is missing because of a one-match ban for punching.

In other words, the Lions' input into the Twickenham shoot-out is significant enough to give England a psy-

chological edge — been there, done it, got the T-shirt — but not so overwhelming that England could be mistaken for the British Isles. The Springboks, too, have kept the hard core of last summer's Test side, though injury has deprived them of two world-class performers, Joost van der Westhuizen and Andre Joubert.

Senior England players like Dallaglio, Bentley and the South African-born Catt will have warned the newcomers in their side about the daunting physical challenge posed by the Springboks, who could well be more intractable up-front than the All Blacks. It would be self-deluding to imagine that South Africa's high-scoring Test wins in France this month were based on anything other than organised forward power.

England, having surprised the All Blacks at Old Trafford with their tenacity in the tight and the loose, now have an excellent *modus operandi* to which they must add a more flexible range of options in the midfield. This week's squad sessions at Roehamp-

ton were by all accounts fierce and uncompromising, so much so that Phil de Glanville, Kyran Bracken and Tony Diprose all received or aggravated injuries that have ruled them out of action. One can be certain, though, that Clive Woodward, the England coach, will have worked hard to refine England's movement whenever the ball is freed from rucks and mauls. It will be fascinating to see how the rising young midfield stars, Nick Greenstock and Will Greenwood, integrate with Catt when he gets the ball in hand going forward into the jaws of some of the most streetwise defenders in world rugby.

"I'm happy to say England won't be bringing out a video on the way we prepare for our Tests," Dallaglio said in a laconic reference to a recent Lions video that provided a remarkable insight into the intense bonding and psyching up that happened in the dressing-room. Nevertheless, it is a safe bet that pugnacious competitors like Richard Cockerill, Garath Archer, Leonard and Dallaglio himself will have rammed home the importance of never taking a step backwards in Bok company.

If the English pack can es-

tablish an effective working platform Woodward will want his players to improve on the Lions' performance in one significant respect: the scoring of tries. Indeed, it was the Springboks' achievement in outscoring the Lions by nine tries to three over their three Tests that almost certainly laid the foundation for their astonishing seven-try victory in Paris a week ago. In contrast England have scored one try and conceded five in their 15-15 draw against Australia and 25-5 defeat by New Zealand.

As Dallaglio said, it is a great deal harder to stay in touch with a side who score tries instead of kicking penalties. The boost to self-confidence, not to mention the points difference, is invaluable. Woodward acknowl-

edges that accurate goal-kicking provides useful insurance but his overall strategy is "to change the mind-set of the players", who perhaps subconsciously have been content to see their attacking effort rewarded with penalties.

If England hope to make a credible challenge for the 1999 World Cup, there is no better place to start than Twickenham with a few touchdowns against the reigning world champions. Dallaglio's men have shown the first green shoots of a much-heralded renaissance: the time surely has come to move on and upstage the Springboks with the blaze of exotic colour that Woodward desires.

International previews, page 21

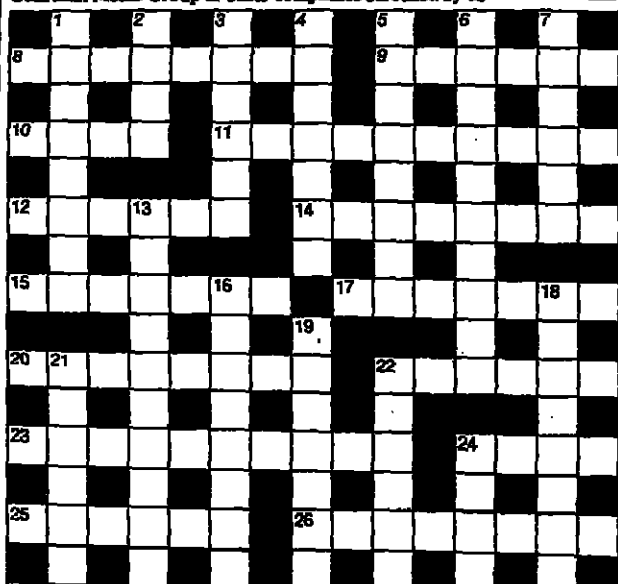
Guardian Crossword 21,134

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to The Guardian Crossword, P.O. Box 14841, London, EC1R 3JX, or Fax to 0171 778 9115 by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday December 8.

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Set by Fawley

Clockwise from 1, the clue to the perimeter is:
"No improvement after analysis? Forget the shrink!"
(3,2,3 and 4,1,5,2,3,5)

Across

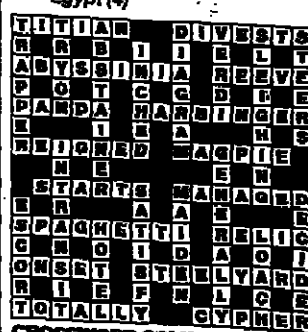
- 8 I may put on a coat outside the house (8)
9 A real change — about five types of grub? (6)
10 Country one has entered before (4)

- 11 The last you'll see of a League side (10)
12 Stolen gun found in a car (3,3)
13 Isaac worries about nervous reaction in a painful condition (8)
14 Perhaps soldier has to call base about it (7)
15 Is it cool to smoke? People could be loth to follow (7)
16 Start to fill a role like mine? (8)
17 Enable to listen to the bard? Fan due to be thrilled (6)

- 23 Threw light on poor clue, one that's old hat (10)
24 Last stage of repairs to a portico (4)
25 That woman accepts to be in debt, in whatever way poetry's used (4,2)
26 Brave battling — not so concerned about runs (6)

Down

- 1 Indian only circles dilapidated mine (6)
2 Run slowly, being lazy (4)
3 Turn off a strip after kids — too sexy? (1-5)
4 One could be characterised as "Sir Goat" (7)
5 American's on the level — shrewd selecting apartments? (8)
6 Pitching tent, roadie is given the right directions (10)
7 Fantastic! Shedding fat and responding to external stimulus (6)
13 Novel in Italian starting a split, almost (5,1,4)
16 So one often makes return visits? (2,3,3)
16 Recording held up by Poirot — a Rossini (8)
19 Leave things as they were on vessel in Polish port (7)
21 Head cut off? It's all over for a cruel tyrant (3,3)
22 Riding with girl-friend, getting the latest news (6)
24 Greek god set up in part of Egypt (4)



Crossword solution 21,133
Telephone 0161-632 7200
Fax 0161-632 7201/7202
Telex 0161-632 7201/7202
Teletext 0161-632 7201/7202



David Lacey

Why 25 into one won't go where fame is the game

HALLS of fame should not be places where almost any hat can be hung according to the merest whim of fashion or fancy. In American sport the honour is about as rare as an Order of Merit in Britain.

When the International Football Hall of Fame opens its doors in Manchester in 1999 it

will be adorned by the faces of those who are claimed to be the world's best 25 players — or to be more exact, the 25 outstanding footballers no longer playing.

To arrive at this conclusion the organisers polled half a million fans in 110 countries via the Internet. This produced a list of 65 names, which was whittled down to 25 by 30 sports writers from several countries.

For a Mancunian the idea of the city allowing in its midst a list of footballing legends without the Denis Law may sound like a case for Interpol. That is always the problem with exercises of such an arbitrary nature: they start more arguments than they solve.

Usually these debates are the stuff of life when football analysts gather. But what is good for the saloon bar becomes another matter entirely when the names are given quasi-official status as the centre of a 25 million museum which will be visited by soccer nuts from all over the world.

The fact that the leading 10 players include six from Britain and Northern Ireland

might make the customers doubt not so much the international nature of the original poll as the impartiality of the list. The Germans in fact must have already concluded that the whole thing was concocted by Basil Fawley.

Few would quarrel with the presence of Pele's name at the top of the heap although this football correspondent feels that Alfredo Di Stefano was the better all-round player. But the rating of Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore and Gordon Banks ahead of Franz Beckenbauer, with only one other German, Gerd Müller, in the frame, suggests a vote based more on nostalgia than reality.

For, while Charlton and Moore were great footballers in their own right and Banks has probably never been bettered in the art of safe goalkeeping, the World Cup triumph of 1966 remains England's only success in a major international tournament, whereas the Germans have won three World Cups, three European Championships and have appeared in those finals 10 times.

A Tontonic football hall of fame might be no less biased but it would be hard to argue with the inclusion of Fritz Walter, who inspired West Germany's World Cup final triumph of 1954 when they beat Hungary against all the odds, or Günther Netzer, the Bohemian who added a new dimension to the team who won the 1972 European Championship playing the best football of any German side before or since.

MOST of those fortunate enough to watch George Best at his peak will be content to see him ranked second only to Pele. But as Northern Ireland did not appear in a World Cup proper between 1958 and 1962 Best's international credentials rest largely on the evidence of his European Cup performances for Manchester United, and in particular his destruction of Benfica in 1968 and 1969.

Scotland have been badly short-changed. Kenny Dalglish was a fine footballer but he did not have Lew's presence and many Scots would put Jim Baxter ahead of both. The pres-

ence of John Charles, Tom Finney, Stanley Matthews, Duncan Edwards and Billy Wright, along with Lev Yashin and Ferenc Puskas, will also remind the clientele that things were happening in football before Match of the Day.

But they were also happening abroad and the absence of Raymond Kopa, Luis Suarez, Omar Sivori, Josef Masopust, Ernst Ocwirk, Juan Schiaffino and their like merely hardens the view that this is an essentially British exercise.

All right, so four more Brazilians — Garrincha, Jairzinho, Roberto Rivelino and Zico — have joined Pele among the famous 25. But no Tostao? No Gerson? And of course no place for Argentina's Diego Maradona because, conveniently, candidates had to be retired for at least three years.

England fans would probably make the cocaine-addicted Hand of God their first choice for a Hall of Infamy. But on ability Maradona is up there with Pele, Di Stefano and Johan Cruyff. And presumably Best did not make second place because of his lifestyle.



Despite the strangeness and variety of sexual fantasies expressed in Beardsley's work, the degree to which he lived them out remains an enigma. Wilde was doubtful about him being active in any direction. "Never be discovered on a coach with Aubrey," he said. "It is not the slightest bit compromising."

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